BLEACH PARTY: Memorial Day approaches, so bring on the white | **Inside**



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Weekend



Hamas militants clash with police this week

Abbas' Gamble: PM stuns Hamas with referendum plan | 7

Overhauled: Battle looms as Senate OKs immigration bill | 3



Comeback Kid: A resurgent Nomar leads the Dodgers vs. the Nationals | 29

ENTERTAINMENT



Weather >> Thunderstorms



Ex-Enron Execs Found Guilty

Skilling, Lay convicted in the energy giant's 2001 collapse

HOUSTON | Former Enron Corp. chiefs Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling were convicted Thursday of conspiracy and securities and wire fraud in one of the biggest business scandals in U.S. history.

The verdict put the blame for the 2001 demise of the high-profile energy trader, once the nation's seventh-largest company, squarely on its top two executives. It came in the sixth day of deliberations following a federal criminal trial that lasted nearly

Lay was also convicted of bank fraud and making false statements to banks in a separate, non-jury trial before U.S. District Judge Sim Lake related to Lay's personal finances.

The conspiracy conviction was a major win for the government, serving almost as a bookend to an era that has seen prosecutors win convictions against executives from WorldCom Inc. to Adelphia Communications Corp. and homemaking maven Martha Stewart. The public outrage over the string of corporate scandals led Congress to pass the Sarbanes-Oxley act, designed to make company executives more accountable.

Enron's collapse alone took with it more than \$60 billion in market value, almost \$2.1 billion in pension plans and 5,600 jobs. Lake set sentencing for Sept. 11. KRISTEN HAYS (AP)

* Reactions: Convictions evoke a mix of emotions among employees who lost out when Enron failed | Page 10

Rail Outage Leaves Thousands Stranded



NO GO: Travelers wait near an Amtrak schedule showing all departures delayed at New York's Pennsylvania Station on Thursday. A power outage halted morning rush-hour trains between Washington and New York, leaving thousands of commuters stranded. • Off track: Another setback for Amtrak | Page 4

OOPS | Chute First, Ask Questions Later Israel dispatched two F-I6 fighter jets Monday to intercept a parachutist who was blown off course and accidentally carried over a topsecret nuclear research center in Dimona, Deutsche-Presse



Agentur reported. After passing through the no-fly security zone around the facility, the parachutist landed safely in Yerucham and was met by police, who took him in for questioning and then released him. (EXPRESS) EyeOpeners | Page 2

ANIMAL CONTROL

Now, the Hard Part: Training The Dog To Use a Stopwatch

 $Chicago\ is\ considering\ a\ 10-minute\ limit\ on\ dog\ barking, the\ Chicago\ Sun-Times$





'Scotland?' I Thought You Said 'Swaziland'

A South African rugby player took an 8-hour, 300-mile taxi trip around Scotland on Friday after the driver got his destination mixed up, the Herald reported. Gary Rosewarne had flown into Glasgow Airport and, getting in a cab at 7:30 a.m., asked to be taken to Port William; however, the driver instead headed for Fort William, After arriving there, Rosewarne called his manager to locate the hotel; realizing the mistake, they then headed to Port William, getting in at 3 a.m. and running up a total bill of \$910. (EXPRESS)



All the News That's Sit To Print

British Library employee Zoe Tait sits on top of a chair built from blocks of newspapers at the library in London on Wednesday. The chair was created to coincide with an exhibition marking 100 years of British newspapers. The exhibition opened to the public Thursday. (AP)



Finally, something about their state that all New Jerseyans can be proud of.

'Contaminated' Came **In Close Second**

New Jersey, long infamous for down and dirty politics, has made some dirt official. The Assembly on Monday passed legislation that made Downer soil the official state soil, bestowing upon the grayish brown and sandy dirt the same status given other state symbols, such as the eastern goldfinch, red oak and honey bee. Sponsors contend the title will lay the groundwork for a fertile education. (AP)

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Nation

In Brief

WASHINGTON

Treasury Secretary Snow Ready To Resign, Say Sources

Treasury Secretary John Snow has



Snov

signaled to the White House he is ready to resign once President Bush has picked a successor, administration officials and people close to Snow

said Thursday. They said Snow has made clear he eventually intends to return to the private sector. They said Snow is not ready to discuss his plans publicly. (AP)

WASHINGTON

Scientists Trace HIV Origin To Wild Chimps in Africa

Twenty-five years after the first AIDS cases emerged, scientists have confirmed that the HIV virus plaguing humans really did originate in wild chimpanzees, in a corner of Cameroon. Scientists long have known that nonhuman primates carry their own version of the AIDS virus, called SIV or simian immunodeficiency virus. But with one exception, it had been found only in captive chimpanzees from West Africa. (AP)



Senate Passes Immigration Reform

Conflict looming with House over provisions targeting illegal workers

WASHINGTON | Legislation to secure U.S. borders and offer millions of illegal immigrants access to the American dream cleared the Senate on Thursday, a rare election-year reach across party lines and a triumph for President Bush.

The 62-36 vote cleared the way for arduous summertime compromise talks with the House on its version that focuses on border enforcement.

"Why not say to those undocumented workers who are working the jobs that the rest of us refuse, come out from the shadows," said Arizona Republican John McCain.

The legislation includes money to better secure the borders, provide a new guest worker program and give an eventual shot at citizenship to many of the estimated 11 million to 12 million immigrants in the country illegally.

The bill "strengthens our security and reflects our humanity," said Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. "It

is intended to keep out those who would harm us and welcome those who contribute to our country."

Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and the Democratic leader, Harry Reid of Nevada, both sided with supporters, a reflection of the bipartisan backing for a bill that was months in the drafting and survived several near-death experiences.

The House bill, passed on a largely party-line vote last year, is limited to border enforcement. It would make all illegal immigrants subject to felony charges and it contains no provision for either a new temporary

worker program or citizenship for those in the country unlawfully.

In contrast, the Senate bill would mark the most far-reaching changes in immigration law in two decades. It was designed to appeal to conservatives and others seeking tougher border enforcement; business interests eager for a steady supply of legal, lowwage labor; unions seeking enhanced protections for migrants who often toil in seasonal work and Hispanics who are on the cusp of greater political power and determined to win a change in legal status for millions of illegal immigrants. DAVID ESPO (AP)

IOWA | HOLIDAY PREPARATIONS



MOWING THE WAY: A Linwood Cemetery employee cuts the grass in preparation for this weekend's Memorial Day ceremonies in Dubuque, Iowa, on Thursday. The historic cementary has been operating since the late 1800's.

Bush, Blair Meet Over New Iraq Government

British leader to report on Bagdad talks, role of coalition forces

WASHINGTON | President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, each facing pressure to pull back from a long, unpopular war, gauged the ability of Iraq's new government to shoulder a bigger role. But Bush's spokesman said Thursday the two leaders are not about to declare, "We're all coming home."

Blair arrived at the White House Thursday evening for talks with Bush that will spill over to Friday.

The prime minister was report-

ing on his discussions in Baghdad Monday with Iraq's new prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, who said his forces are capable of taking control of security in all Iraqi provinces within 18 months. Bush and Blair planned to discuss whether al-Maliki's assertion was realistic.

With casualties rising and violence rampant, Iraq weighs heavily on Bush and Blair. Both have plunged in polls and face growing calls for troop withdrawals. Bush is also under pressure from Republicans over November elections.

The two leaders also were expected to discuss fading Mideast peace prospects. Terence Hunt (AP)





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Nation

Total pounds, in hundreds, of a hammerhead shark reeled in by a Florida fishing captain. If the International Game Fish Association rules it official, the hammerhead will be the biggest ever caught.



STUCK: Andrew Michael, left, and Matt Garner nap as they wait for trains at the 30th Street Station in Philadelphia on Thursday.

Another Blow for Amtrak

Massive power outage cripples northeast rail, stranding thousands

NEWARK, N.J. | A massive power outage on Amtrak's busiest corridor Thursday stranded tens of thousands of passengers for hours in hot, smelly cars — some in tunnels under the Hudson River — in the latest of several recent embarrassments for the perpetually money-losing railroad.

The cause of the outage, which created widespread disruptions from Washington to Boston, had

not been determined by mid-afternoon Thursday.

Power was out for nearly three hours, affecting not only the nation's federally subsidized passenger railroad but also commuter lines in New Jersey, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Many passengers left stuck rail cars and walked to the next station.

Amtrak officials were reviewing electronic logs to identify the sequence of events to determine what happened, said Amtrak acting President David Hughes.

Thirteen NJ Transit trains also were stopped dead on the tracks by the outage, along with 28 SEPTA trains in Philadelphia and eight on Maryland's MARC system.

Passengers stuck on trains described rapidly worsening conditions as the outage dragged on.

The outage prompted cries for changes in the management of Amtrak, which has been without a permanent president since David Gunn was fired in November.

"If there was ever proof that Amtrak is being terribly mismanaged with unqualified people at the helm, this power outage at the height of the morning rush hour is it," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. wayne parry (ap)





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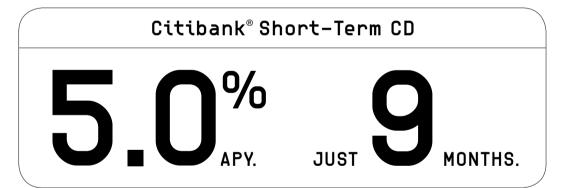
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Nation

The amount, in thousands, of pounds of fireworks N.Y. police found in a truck during a traffic stop Wednesday. Officials said the amount could devastate up to a quarter-mile of land.

Bush Orders FBI Files Shut

Hastert blasts feds for 'intimidation' tactics after Abramoff report

WASHINGTON | President Bush stepped into the Justice Department's constitutional confrontation with Congress on Thursday and ordered that documents seized in an FBI raid on a lawmaker's office be sealed for

The president directed that no one involved in the investigation have access to the documents taken last weekend from the office of Rep. William Jefferson, D-La., and that they remain in the custody of the Justice Department.

Bush's move was described as an attempt to cool off a heated confrontation between his administration and leaders of both parties in the House, particularly Speaker Dennis Hastert.

Hastert and Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said they were asking the House counsel to meet with the Justice Department to work out a resolution.

The president said he recognized that Republican and Democratic leaders have "deeply held views" that the search violated the Constitution's separation of powers principles. But he stopped short of saying he agreed, declaring the end goal was to provide materials relevant to an ongoing criminal investigation to pros-

The dispute had continued to escalate when Hastert earlier Thursday accused the Justice Department of trying to intimidate him in retaliation for his criticism.

ABC News quoted an unnamed law enforcement source as saying that he was "in the mix" of the department's investigation into convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff. LAU-RIE KELLMAN (AP)

PENNSYLVANIA | TRANSGENERATIONAL LEARNING



NO NUNSENSE TEACHER: Sister Mary Isidore, left, examines an ABC book made by Zoya Khan, 6, during a visit by kindergarten students from St. Cyril Academy to the home for retired nuns in Danville, Pa., on Thursday.

House Approves Drilling for Oil in Alaska Refuge

WASHINGTON | Citing the public outcry over \$3-a-gallon gasoline and heavy U.S. reliance on foreign oil, the House of Representatives on Thursday voted to open an Alaska wildlife refuge to oil drilling, despite slim chances for Senate approval.

The House voted 225-201 to open oil leases on the coastal strip of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

But the action may be little more than symbolic. Arctic refuge development, while approved by the House five times, repeatedly has been blocked in the Senate where drilling proponents have been unable to muster the 60 votes needed. (AP)

Cheney May Testify in CIA Leak Case

File shows prosecutor wants vice president as witness against Libby

WASHINGTON | If a prosecutor calls him as a witness, Vice President Dick Cheney probably could not avoid testifying in his former chief of staff's perjury trial, legal experts said Thursday.

"There may be significant issues of executive privilege and significant issues of classified information," said former federal prosecu-

tor E. Lawrence Barcella Jr.

In a court filing late Wednesday, Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald suggested Chenev would be a logi-



Cheney

cal prosecution witness because he could authenticate notes he jotted on a copy of a New York Times opinion column by a critic of the U.S.- led war in Iraq.

Fitzgerald said Cheney's state of mind at the time he jotted those notes is "directly relevant" to the perjury and obstruction of justice charges against I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the vice president's former top aide.

Libby faces trial in January on charges that he lied to FBI agents and a federal grand jury about how he learned CIA officer Valerie Plame's identity and what he later told reporters. Toni Locy (AP)



SHOW STOPPER: A German circus strongwoman who rips telephone books in half for her act needs public help. The performer has placed ads in local newspapers seeking 500 more phone books to replenish her supply and ensure her show can go on.

World

In Brief



Pope Benedict XVI waves as he leaves a cathedral in Warsaw on Thursday.

WARSAW, POLAND

Pope Benedict XVI Travels To John Paul II's Homeland

Poles gave Pope Benedict XVI a warm greeting Thursday — if not the rapturous reception reserved for native son Pope John Paul II — as the German-born pontiff pledged to strive to heal painful wounds from the "tragic tyranny" of the Nazis. Benedict's tour will touch on some of the most painful memories of Europe's past, and will include a visit Sunday to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, where the Nazis killed 1.5 million people, mostly Jews. (AP)

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN Thousands Said to Flee Homes Due to Heavy Battles

Militants killed three truck drivers hauling food for the U.S. military, and 3,000 people have fled their homes because of heavy fighting, officials in Afghanistan said Thursday. The villagers were fleeing their homes in Kandahar after a week of violence left scores dead, a U.N. official said. (AP)

SOCHI, RUSSIA

Putin Objects Anew to Cheney's Recent Criticisms

President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia wants good relations with the U.S., but he objected vigorously to Vice President Dick Cheney's recent criticism that Moscow was backtracking on democracy and using energy to blackmail neighbors. "We see how the United States defends its interests, we see what methods and means they use for this," Putin told reporters at a Russia-European Union summit. (AP)

Abbas May Call Poll Over Statehood

Hamas given 10 days to endorse plan to exist alongside Israel

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK | In a bold initiative, the Palestinian president gave Hamas 10 days to accept the idea of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, saying Thursday he'll submit the plan to a referendum by mid-July if the Islamic militants refuse.

Mahmoud Abbas' surprise announcement is a political gam-

ble that could either help resolve the Palestinians' internal deadlock or lead the Hamas-led government and Fatah into a deeper crisis.

Abbas asked Hamas to endorse a document drawn up by senior Palestinian militants imprisoned in Israel. It accepts statehood in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East War.

Approving the document would imply recognition of Israel — one of the three conditions imposed by

Israel and the West for doing business with the Hamas-led govern-



Abbas

ment falls short of meeting the other two conditions — renouncing violence and accepting past peace accords so it was unclear

ment. The docu-

if the international boycott would be called off even if Hamas acquiesced.

However, a referendum, which

Palestinian pollsters expect to pass, could provide cover for the militants to become more moderate without appearing to succumb to Western pressure. Such a vote could also renew pressure on Israel to return to the negotiating table rather than impose borders on the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas was noncommittal, saying: "We will study how the call for a referendum is compatible with the law, the constitution and politics."



 $\textbf{UNDER COVER}: \textbf{More than 100} \ men \ and \ women \ gather in \ Tehran, \ lran, \ to \ pledge \ a \ willingness \ to \ become \ suicide \ bombers.$

Iranians Sign On as Suicide Bombers

Group claims pledge to help defend country, Islam if necessary

TEHRAN, IRAN | Under a banner showing coffins draped with American, British and Israeli flags, more than 100 Iranian men and women pledged Thursday to become suicide bombers — if necessary — to defend their country and Islam.

The event, held in a burial area for war dead and martyrs, was sim-

ilar to others in recent years, with Islamic chants and songs and volunteers donning white to symbolize their willingness to die.

But this gathering — coming at a time when many Iranians worry their country could come under attack by the U.S. or Israel — was tailored to send a message of defiance against any possible military action over Iran's nuclear program.

"The threats from America have swelled our ranks and given us added conviction," said 27-yearold Margess, who would only give her first name. "We will stand up against them with our lives."

No weapons or explosives were displayed, but the ceremony was organized by a shadowy group believed to have links to the Basiji paramilitary group that is backed by Iran's Islamic regime.

A huge banner used as a backdrop showed flag-covered coffins. And a message — in English — promised to "damage the U.S. worldwide" in retaliation for any attack on Iran. BRIAN MURPHY (AP)

Colombians Next to Go To the Polls

Leftist candidate gets last-minute boost but unlikely to beat Uribe

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA | Colombia stands out as an oasis of conservatism amid Latin America's growing legion of leftist leaders and Sunday's elections are unlikely to change that with President Alvaro Uribe expected to win by a landslide.

But a late surge by a leftist candidate nicknamed "Santa Claus" has provided the lone surprise in a campaign dominated by Uribe.

Colombia's democratic left, long blemished by its association with the four-decade-old guerrilla insurgency, has been invigorated by the surprise performance of Sen. Carlos Gaviria, the candidate for the Alternative Democratic Pole party, or PDA.

Unknown to half of Colombians just a few months ago, Gaviria has leapfrogged past Liberal Party candidate Horacio Serpa to move into second place. Since March, polls show that support for Gaviria has tripled to 24 percent.

Meanwhile, Uribe, popular for his crackdown on rebels and armed groups, has seen his still commanding lead dip 10 points to 55 percent. JOSHUA GOODMAN (AP)

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World



HARM'S WAY: Residents of East Timor fleeing a wave of fighting between disgruntled soldiers and government forces head to a U.N. refugee camp in Dili Thursday.

Surge of Unrest Racks East Timor

International troops arrive to quell fighting with renegade soldiers

DILI, EAST TIMOR | International peacekeepers arrived in East Timor's smoldering capital Thursday to restore order as gunbattles between renegade troops and government forces killed at least 12 people, wounded dozens and threatened to plunge the country into civil war.

In New York, United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric said nine people were killed and 27 others were wounded during an attack on the national police headquarters in Dili.

It was the third day of fierce fighting across Dili, which sent residents and foreigners fleeing for safety, some rushing to the airport. "I feel horrible, like a rat deserting a sinking ship," said Australian Margaret Hall, who arrived in the country several months ago with an aid organization.

The unrest in East Timor is the most serious threat to the desperately poor country since it broke from Indonesian rule in 1999 in massive violence that ended only with the arrival of an Australian-led international peacekeeping mission. The U.N. administered the tiny nation for the next three years, during which time the army was formed — critics say too hastily — contributing to the present crisis.

The latest dispute began in March when 600 soldiers — nearly 40 percent of East Timor's entire armed forces — were fired after going on strike to protest alleged discrimination in the military. GUIDO GUILLIARD (AP)

Sudan Closer to Taking U.N. Force

KHARTOUM, SUDAN | Sudan agreed Thursday to accept a U.N. team to prepare for the deployment of a peacekeeping force in Darfur, but cautioned that any U.N. role in the troubled western region would be smaller than some Security Council members want.

Announcing that the team would arrive in the coming days, U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi told a press conference the agreement to host the mission was an "important step" in cooperation between the world and Sudan, which had previously barred the assessment team. In a resolution last week, the U.N. Security Council gave Khartoum one week to accept the assessment team. (AP)

The amount, in millions, an anonymous bidder paid at Sotheby's auction house Wednesday for a painting by Mexican artist Frieda Kahlo. The sale set a new record for the artist and for a Latin American work of art at auction.

World

Fighting Erupts Across Mogadishu

Battles among Somali militias for control of city grow in intensity

NAIROBI, KENYA | Islamic and secular militias battled in Somalia's capital Thursday, the most widespread and some of the deadliest fighting in Mogadishu in 14 years. Dozens of people were killed and thousands fled their homes on foot.

The fighting spread from northern Mogadishu, scene of fierce battles in recent weeks, into the southern and eastern parts of the city.

Islamic militiamen captured a strategic road junction and seized the historic Sahafi Hotel, owned by a member of the rival anti-terrorism Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counterterrorism.

The fight for control of Mogadishu comes despite a May 14 cease-fire. The alliance claims the self-appointed Islamic court leaders, who have their own militias, have links to al Qaeda, while the



Residents of Mogadishu flee areas of fresh fighting in the Somali capital.

Islamic militants accuse the alliance of working for the CIA. U.S. officials refuse to confirm any association with the secular militia.

More than 140 people were killed in eight days of fighting earlier this month. Residents said Thursday marked the first time since 1992 - when international forces came to Somalia, resulting in the failed U.S. troop operation featured in the movie "Black Hawk Down" - that battles erupted in different parts of Mogadishu on the same day. (AP)

Train Turnabout Stumps S. Korea

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA | South Korea on Thursday told North Korea its last-minute decision to cancel test runs of trains across their heavily armed border was inexplicable.

The test runs had been scheduled Thursday and would have been the first time for trains to cross between the Koreas since 1951. The North said Wednesday it was calling off the tests due to a lack of a military agreement between the sides, and an alleged unstable political situation in the South. (AP)



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Money

Elation, Apathy Over Enron

News of verdict draws mixed emotions from company's ex-workers

HOUSTON | Sherri Saunders got the call at her desk and squealed "Yes!" Brian Cruver turned on the television, saw news of the verdicts and kept on working.

After hearing Thursday that Enron Corp. founder Kenneth Lay and former Chief Executive Jeffrey Skilling had just been convicted of conspiracy to commit securities and wire fraud, former employees' reactions ranged from elation to satisfaction to indifference.

"Ken Lay has been coming out of the courthouse every day saying the case is in the hands of the jury, judge and God. To me, God has spoken to him with this verdict," said Saunders, 59, who lost her job and \$1 million in retirement savings when the high-profile energy



Enron workers sit in front of company headquarters after being laid off in 2001.

trader went bankrupt in 2001. "I guess it gives me a little comfort, but it doesn't put back my retirement money."

Saunders and Cruver were among some 4,000 employees who, the day after Enron filed for bankruptcy in December 2001, were told they no longer had jobs. They were

given only 30 minutes to pack their belongings and leave the building in downtown Houston.

Cruver, a trader at Enron for just nine months, said he was indifferent upon hearing the verdicts because he has moved on. But he said he would have reacted strongly if the men had been acquitted.

"I was always satisfied with the punishment they were already getting, having their lives for decades tied up in courts and legal fees, but these verdicts make perfect sense," said Cruver, 34. "They're getting what they deserve and what Enron employees wanted."

Saunders, now an executive secretary at a Houston hospital, said she hopes 52-year-old Skilling and 64-year-old Lay get stiff sentences because they have never taken responsibility or showed remorse.

"If Ken Lay gets 20 years, he'll probably die in jail," Saunders said. "So 20 years would be good." (AP)

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Yahoo, eBay Announce Partnership

SAN FRANCISCO | Internet powerhouses Yahoo and eBay are joining forces in an alliance that further defines the battle lines in an online brawl with rivals Google, Microsoft and AOL.

Under the multiyear partnership

announced Thursday, Yahoo and eBay will draw upon each other's strengths in online advertising, payments and communications so they can connect with even more Web surfers than they already do.

Shares of both companies

jumped on the news, reflecting investor expectations that the deal will be profitable.

Thursday's announcement followed weeks of Wall Street speculation about possible deals among the Web's heavyweights. At one point, there was even talk that Microsoft Corp. wanted to buy Yahoo. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers				Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY Change	DAILY Percent Change	STOCK	LAST	DAILY Change	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
StoneEngy	49.95	+9.19	+22.5	HokuSci n	5.17	+1.42	+37.9
BigLots	16.31	+2.80	+20.7	ArtTech	2.90	+.67	+30.0
AK Steel	13.48	+1.61	+13.6	MechTch	4.06	+.70	+20.8
FriedBR	10.88	+1.14	+11.7	AMEN	5.91	+.97	+19.5
NwpkRs If	5.71	+.55	+10.7	OccuLogix	2.25	+.33	+17.2
Losers				Losers			
MidwGm	7.39	-1.56	-17.4	BluCoat	15.65	-3.91	-20.0
Vonage n	13.00	-1.85	-12.5	VocalTec n	5.41	81	-13.0
Omncre	44.46	-3.54	-7.4	PegasusW n	13.15	-1.83	-12.2
Libbey	11.38	86	-7.0	Loudeye rs	2.39	29	-11.0
WLyonHm	122.00	-9.05	-6.9	SciClone	2.14	25	-10.5

Rates Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	CUKKENI	LKEAIOO2 MEEK		IUDAT	PREVIOUS DAT	TEAK AGU
Prime Rate	8.00	8.00	British Pound	.5343	.5343	.5458
Fed Funds close	5.00	5.00	Canadian Dollar	1.1060	1.1199	1.2632
3-month disc	4.71	4.72	European Euro	.7817	.7829	.7933
2-year	4.96	4.92	Japanese Yen	111.76	112.69	107.69
10-year	5.07	5.06	Mexican Peso	11.1478	11.2997	10.9340
30-vear	5.17	5.17	Taiwanese Dollar	32.10	32.00	31.30

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+93.73	+29.07	+14.31
+0.84 11211.05	+1.34 2198.24	+1.14 1272.88

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY Change	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGI
AbtLab	42.50	+.35	+7.8
Allergan	94.62	+.52	-12.4
AstraZen	52.90	+.31	+8.8
BarrPhm	53.75	+1.13	-13.7
BrMySq	24.61	+.64	+7.1
ForestLab	37.45	+.17	-7.9
Hospira	43.21	+.16	+1.0
IvaxCorp	25.98		-17.1
JohnJn	60.45	+.04	+.6
LillyEli	51.62	+.88	-8.8
Merck	34.39	+.45	+8.1
Pfize	23.85	+.01	+2.3
SchergPl	19.30	+.18	-7.4
Sepracor	51.84	+1.80	+.5
Wveth	47 89	+1 13	+4 N

The number, in cents, that the most valuable single American stamp originally cost. The stamp, which pictures Benjamin Franklin on it, will be featured at the Washington 2006 Stamp Show, which opens Saturday at the Convention Center.

Local

D.C. Trade Board Gets New Head

James C. Dinegar says more outreach needed as he accepts CEO job

WASHINGTON | The Greater Washington Board of Trade announced Thursday that an executive with years of experience leading national business groups will serve as the organization's new president.

James C. Dinegar, who currently serves as chief operating officer of the American Institute of Architects, will become chief executive officer of the board July 10. The group's 1,100 member companies employ 40 percent of the Washington region's private sector workforce.

"We've got to reach out to more business leaders, politicians and other chambers of commerce to help advance the important issues facing the region," Dinegar said.

In his 28-year career, he has also worked as government affairs director of the American Society of Association Executives and vice president of the Building Owners and Managers Association International.

In recent years, the Board of Trade has lobbied for approval of transportation projects and the inclusion of business leaders in planning for the region's homeland security needs.

"Dinegar has the skills to make sure business has a voice in public policy decisions," said Barbara Krumsiek, president of the Calvert Group, an investment firm. (AP)

Judge Blocks Muhammad's Tactics

Defense struggles as requests for evidence, subpoena are rejected

ROCKVILLE, MD. | John Allen Muhammad struggled to mount a defense Thursday in his second trial for the 2002 sniper shootings. The judge blocked him from presenting some evidence and questioning a police detective who Muhammad

claims prodded Lee Boyd Malvo to confess.

Muhammad, defending himself against murder charges for six Maryland sniper killings, called witnesses who saw other suspicious vehicles near crime scenes. He also introduced a search warrant from a Virginia home where investigators found bullets like those used in the shootings.

But he was repeatedly cut short

by prosecutors and Montgomery County Circuit Judge James Ryan as he tried to question witnesses that included a Secret Service handwriting expert and a Prince William County, Va., investigator.

Ryan said Muhammad was not asking proper questions and didn't introduce evidence correctly.

Ryan also quashed Muhammad's subpoena for Fairfax County, Va., detective June Boyle, who questioned Malvo after he and Muhammad were arrested Oct. 24, 2002.

Malvo told Boyle he was the triggerman in all 13 sniper shootings, but testified this week that he lied to protect Muhammad and said Muhammad was the triggerman in 10 shootings. When prosecutors objected to Muhammad's plans to call Boyle, he claimed Boyle fed sniper details to Malvo when he confessed. STEPHEN MANNING (AP)

WASHINGTON | TRAIN DELAY HITS HOME



ALL A-BORED: Passengers aboard MARC trains arrive at Washington's Union Station on Thursday after being stranded for several hours because of power outages on routes from Washington to New York. People late for business appointments, lunches and other events rushed out of late-arriving trains at the station, many complaining of ruined plans.

Recuperated Eagle Flies Back to Mate

WASHINGTON | After healing from an attack, a bald eagle flew 90 miles from Delaware to the Maryland-Virginia line to return to her mate and the nest they have shared since the late 1990s.

The eagles, known as George and Martha, made headlines after

the female was attacked by another female eagle in April, presumably over territorial issues. Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research in Delaware tended to Martha's injuries, releasing her on May 6. While she was away, George tended the nest. Their eggs, however, did not survive. (AP)

Crash of Cruiser, Motorcycle Kills 1

PALMER PARK, MD. | One man was killed and two were people critically injured in a fiery crash between a speeding motorcycle and a police cruiser on Wednesday.

Prince George's County police

said the male driver of the motorcycle was killed in the crash. A female passenger on the motorcycle is in critical condition.

The male officer, whose car caught fire, is being treated for serious burns.

An initial investigation shows the vehicles collided and caused the car to flip over. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, May 25

Mid-day Lucky Numbers 9-1-0
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.) 7-3-4
Mid-day DC 4 7-8-5-1
Evening DC 4 (Wed.) 9-9-7-0
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.) 12-1-34-18-19
Daily 6 (Wed.) 35-13-28-11-14-3 (27)
Hot Lotto (Wed.) 9-12-14-16-18 (13)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3 (Wed.) 4-0-2
Mid-day Pick 4 8-2-4-6
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.) 1-2-5-6
Match 5 (Wed.) 10-18-34-37-39 (13)
Multi-Match (Wed.) 6-14-27-28-35-43

VIRGINIA

 Mid-day Pick 3
 8-3-7

 Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)
 7-6-2

 Mid-day Pick 4
 0-6-3-8

Evening Pick 4 (Wed.) **6-0-5-8**Mid-day Cash 5 **13-18-20-22-29**Evening Cash 5 (Wed.) **7-20-26-28-30**Win For Life (Wed.) **5-13-18-23-25-37 (15)**

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.) **2-3-12-47-51 (I0)**Power Play **x3**

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.



The Washington Post | Sunday Preview



WATER WORLD: Situated on the Tred Avon River, Oxford, Md., offers a serene getaway for boating or just kicking back in an Adirondack chair and taking in the view.

One-Tank Travel

Get away on a single fill-up with these nearby destinations

GETAWAYS | Travelers, start your engines.

We know what you're thinking, so stop your whining this instant. Yes, gas is expensive (about 90 cents more a gallon than at this point in 2005) and roads congested. But going by plane isn't much better, what with crowded airports and more vacationers fighting for fewer seats at higher prices.

We say: Buck up (and buckle up), road worriers. Still, we understand your unwillingness to pour more good money down the tank.

So where can you go without having to refuel? After identifying the best-selling passenger cars in the United States last year (the Toyota Camry, Honda Accord, Toyota Corolla/Matrix, Honda Civic and Nissan Altima), we went to Fueleconomy.gov — a Web site provided by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency — to see how far they average on a tank of gas.

Our best estimate, based on 2005 four-cylinder automatics: about 420 miles.

Of course, if you drive an SUV or a truck or an older model or a newer model or a hybrid, your mileage may vary. Greatly. With that in mind, we've identified a quartet of underthe-radar getaways that are under 300 miles round trip and should require only a tank of gas.

Looking for a quiet retreat on the Chesapeake? Consider OXFORD, MD., a serene waterfront town on the Tred Avon River, where VIP weekenders and retirees commune with nature from their million-dollar porches and yachts. Visitors will fit right in if they enjoy marina life and tucker out early and easily. It's only about 145 miles from the Beltway. Just take Route 50 East. Boaters, Adirondack chair sitters, seafood eaters and stressed-out city folk who need vacation intervention will find this a most appealing destination.

For a brush with the Civil War, we suggest **PETERSBURG**, **VA**., where 1865 lives again. You don't have to be a die-hard to fall for Petersburg's ample Civil War attractions. The area is carpeted with significant sites,



CIVIL ACTION: Visit 1865 on a single tank of gas with a trip to Petersburg, Va.

■ ALSO THIS SUNDAY

Ensnared by E-Mail

Who's naive enough to fall for one of those swindles that clutter everyone's e-mail boxes? Surprisingly, plenty of people who are neither greedy nor naive. | **BUSINESS**

Local Jukebox Heroes



Nothing says more about an establishment than the songs the proprietor picks for the jukebox. A guide to distict local joints. including the National Park Service's Petersburg National Battlefield. But thanks to the area's more recent offering, Pamplin Historical Park, a battlefield visit is more than an idle-speed drive along long-silent pastures. It's a little less than 250 miles round trip. Sadly, the drive is I-95 all the way, and if there's ever a good time to negotiate the agonies of the Springfield Mixing Bowl, we haven't found it. But it's interstate sameness after that.

If you prefer mountains with your massages, head to the spa town of **BERKELEY SPRINGS**, **W.VA**. where small-town America meets



WASHINTON BATHED HERE: Our first president was a frequent visitor to Bath, now known as Berkeley Springs.

big-time pampering. Time it right (don't leave during the evening rush hour) and you can be in Berkeley Springs in well under two hours – provided you don't stop at the Prime Outlets in Hagerstown. In any case, the pastoral scenery will make you forget D.C. in a hurry. Upon arrival, find your hotel or B&B, then park the car. You won't be needing it for a while. From Maryland or the District head north on I-270 to Frederick, then west on I-70 to Route 522. If you're leaving from Virginia, take the Dulles Tollway to the Dulles Greenway to Route 7 west to Route 9 north.

And families will enjoy boating and fishing on RAYSTOWN LAKE, PA., where 118 miles of shoreline is surrounded by towering green mountains and red cliffs. The federally owned lake and park in Central Pennsylvania's Huntingdon County covers 29,300 acres — about 15 times the size of Rock Creek Park. It will be wonderful for those who love outdoor activities — including fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, biking, birding, camping, diving and horseback riding — and the sedentary who love gazing at nature with a book or a glass of wine. Raystown Lake is about 300 miles round trip. Take I-70 to Route 30 West to Pa. Route 26.

So fuel up and put the car in drive. Besides, what's a summer without a few bugs stuck on the windshield or a 45-minute wait to get over the Bay Bridge? (THE WASHINGTON POST TRAVEL STAFF)

Get (Not So Far) Away

→ To find 10 more nearby destinations, special deals that help pay your gas expenses and tips on improving your mileage, see this Sunday's Post. | TRAVEL



NIGHTLIFE AGENDA

Dance/pop: The Rosbuds join Bliss at the Black Cat. Also, go-go at Mirrors; Cübik's all-star DJs at Nation; Caribbean Breeze gets down. | 14

Weekend Entertainment

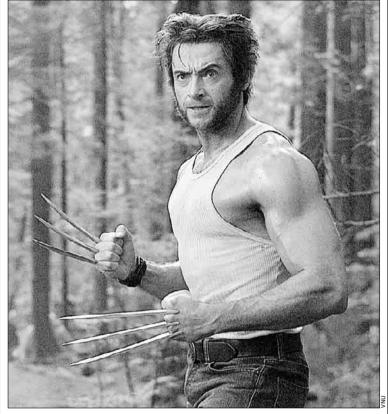
Bad Mutations

New 'X-Men' film lacks the nuance of its predecessors

FILM | The nuance and complexity that made the first two "X-Men" movies more compelling than the typically mindless summer block-buster are gone in "X-Men: The Last Stand," the third and allegedly final installment in the comic-inspired franchise. In their place this time, you get flying, flaming cars and a naked Rebecca Romijn! Really naked!

You could call this The Brett Ratner Effect: Fears about what would happen when the director of the "Rush Hour" movies took over the "X-Men" series from Bryan Singer proved well-founded. Ratner seems more concerned with spectacle than substance, offering a film that's shorter than its predecessors, yet crammed with more characters and subplots, all of which come and go quickly.

But everyone involved with this film purports it to be the meatiest and most relevant of the trilogy, with its premise that scientists have developed a cure for mutancy and the social and political implications that follow. Do the X-Men



EX-GOOD: Characters and subplots come and go as quickly as Wolverine's claws.

give up their powers and conform? Or do they maintain the qualities that made them unique and ostracized? It's all very high concept and would seem applicable to anyone living on the fringe, but Ratner and

screenwriters Zak Penn (who cowrote part two) and Simon Kinberg ("Mr. & Mrs. Smith") merely skim the surface.

Protesters stand outside government buildings where these new shots are being administered, holding signs and chanting, "We don't need a cure!" Halle Berry's Storm, who can manipulate weather, says she doesn't want a cure. (And why should she? Her powers are among the coolest.) Meanwhile, young Rogue (Anna Paquin), who's stuck with the fact that everyone she touches dies, thinks it's not such a bad idea. And that's about as far as anyone gets in terms of digging into the film's inherent philosophical issues; "The Last Stand" is the rare movie that actually could have run a bit longer, if only to give us a chance to think. Instead of a pause we get giant battles between good X-Men and bad mutants led by Ian McKellen's metal-moving Magneto.

The most intriguing character, Famke Janssen's Jean Grey, has arisen after dying at the end of "X2" and she's more screwed up than ever — and part of another plot that feels truncated. Perhaps the most powerful mutant with her keen telekinesis and telepathy, Jean has a dark side — she can't control her abilities and wreaks total havoc. Part Sissy Spacek in "Carrie," part Linda Blair in "The Exorcist," Jean can now kill people just by staring at them; she can cause an entire house to levitate and strip it bare. More often than not, though, she just stands around with a blank expression on her face, looking bored and a little lost. Even if you don't have superpowers, you know how she feels. CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)



FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT

Where can I find (possibly outdoor) free music this weekend? I'd love something where I could bring a picnic.

Rockville's Hometown Holidays has Latin pop star Andy Andy and the Crawdaddies Saturday and Blues Traveler, Hotspur and the Kelly Bell Band Sunday. The Alexandria Jazz Festival is Monday. The U.S. Marine Band kicks off the Wolf Trap season with a concert (fireworks included) on Sunday.

Rockville Town Center, North Washington St. & Middle Lane; 202-314-5022. (Rockville) Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria; 703-883-4686. Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Rd., Vienna; 703-255-1900.



Blues Traveler hasn't changed its sound much in the new millennium.

Where's a good place to hear funk jazz?

Your best bet would be checking out Will Rast's ensemble at Bossa every Thursday. Bands at Juste Lounge often do a funk/jazz/gogo hybrid that some people call "pocket jazz."

Bossa, 2463 18th St. NW; 202-667-0088. (Adams Morgan) Juste Lounge, 6821 Reed St., Bethesda; 202-393-0939. (Bethesda)

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

'Keeping Up' Is a Diamond

Anyone can enjoy the adolescent angst of Benjamin Fiedler

FILM | With its sitcom-like dialogue, wacky family antics and good-natured ribbing of tradition, "Keeping Up With the Steins" plays like "My Big Fat Bar Mitzvah." Like 2002's surprise smash "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," the movie is so warmhearted and well-intentioned, it's hard not to be charmed. The movie's TV comedy origins are



TEENAGE ANGST PAYS OFF: Ben uses his Mitzvah to reunite his estranged family.

unmistakable, with a cast including Doris Roberts ("Everybody LovesRaymond"), Cheryl Hines ("Curb Your Enthusiasm") and Garry Marshall (name a beloved series from the 1970s and '80s and he was probably involved).

Longtime family resentments are aired, reconciliations are forged and young Benjamin Fiedler stumbles toward manhood. All feel-good stuff, but there are enough funny lines and realistic coming-of-age moments here to make it more than worthwhile.

Besides, Neil Diamond shows up and sings "Hava Nagila." What's not to like?

CHRISTYLEMIRE (AP)

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RLING, VA I-FANDANGO #394 MANASSAS CINEMA 14

ekend Entertainment

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

Cübik (and Buzz before it) has long been regarded as one of the premier weekly dance nights in the world a reputation built by attracting every top-flight DJ one can imagine. But one could argue that what really separates it from similar nights elsewhere is the incredible local talent that serves as the night's backbone. Two of those mainstays — Scott Henry and Feelgood — will be featured tonight at Cübik. While it would be surprising to see both of their names absent from the (as yet unannounced) final Cübik lineup in July, there's a chance that this could be your last chance to hear these local legends at NATION. It's easy to take them for granted, since they've spun so frequently in the area for so long, but this bill would be a major event in many other cities. Nobody spins funky house like Feelgood and whether Henry's dropping house, trance or one of his old-school Bit O' Honey sets, he always sets the dance floor on fire.

Happy anniversary to JUSTE LOUNGE, which marks five years in business with a blowout party that includes a free drink for everyone who walks in the door (anything you want, from Hennessey to Grey Goose) plus half-price food and drink from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., followed by neo-soul from Howard Franklin and the Wildflower Band. DJ Alize of WKYS spins hip-hop until 4 a.m. (Remember the first anniversary party back at the old Mount Vernon Square club? The Bethesda digs are a huge improve-

Italian DJ Nicola Conte released a sparkling CD of bossa nova and modern lounge on Eighteenth Street Lounge Records before producing a jazz album for Blue Note — Conte is a gifted guitarist in addition to being a great lounge DJ. Label disputes mean that Conte isn't recording for ESL now, but he remains friends with ESL founders Eric Hilton and Rob Garza, which is why you'll find Conte behind the decks at **eighteenth street lounge**. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. Lounge



NOT MATES OF STATE: The Rosebuds hit D.C. this weekend, but if we hear one more cute chick/busted dude duo making pleasant pop-rock, we'll kill Jack White.

resident Majik Mike is first on the turntables.

THE KENNEDY CENTER isn't the first place you'd expect to find an indie rock band specializing in ethereal soundscapes and lush atmospherics, but that's what Venice Is Sinking will bring to Millennium Stage. Sure, the Athens, Ga., quintet might be better suited for the Galaxy Hut — its sound evokes bands such as Low, Slowdive or some of those hip Canadian bands - but that's part of Millennium's charm. Christian youth choir one day, Mongolian folk the next, 21stcentury shoegaze later in the week. As always, this show is free.

SATURDAY

The BLACK CAT'S "DJ vs. band' debate rages on. Fans of local music argue that prized weekend slots should go to bands instead of records, while the Mousetrap-Bliss-'80s Anti-Prom contingent counters that those who want to dance should be able to, especially since the club makes money hosting these nights. Both factions should enjoy tonight's down-the-middle approach. Indie-electro-pop hybrid Bliss provides beats before and after a set by North Carolina's Rosebuds. The Buds' latest, "Birds Make Good Neighbors," will remind listeners of the Go-Betweens and the Auteurs, but more importantly, it's full of punchy songs that should get the crowd dancing.

CARIBBEAN BREEZE'S Friday night salsa parties offer a lively scene, great dancers and a space that includes room to groove and a covered patio. The five-month-old events have been doing very well, so the nuevo Latino restaurant is expanding it to a weekly Saturday event, beginning with tonight's "White Party." White attire is requested and the music will be a mix of Latin styles. Dancing begins at 10 p.m. and food is served until midnight.

SUNDAY

Leading with the irresistible siren song of "no work, no school on Monday" the ads for the White Linen Affair at MIRRORS tout three of the most popular R&B and gogo hybrid bands on the circuit: Familiar Faces, After Hours Band and Whop & 'Em. The latter two serve up the go-go-ized neo-soul covers that are popular on the afterwork happy hour scene. Familiar Faces is a group comprising members of the defunct 911 Band, who also spent time in Rare Essence. The bands will be rocking in white, but that isn't a requirement for fans; just remember that there's zero tolerance for athletic wear.

Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at washingtonpost.com/cityguide



AKFFLAH AND THE REF (PG 112 minutes) When Akeelah Anderson (Keke Palmer) turns in another perfect spelling test, her principal suggests she enter the district spelling bee. Observing all this is Joshua Larabee (Laurence Fishburne), who cuts a mythic figure as the Teacher Who Changed Everything. This funny, affecting tale pays homage not just to one young person's determination and character but to all those parents, teachers and guardian angels who instill in young people the love of language and the love of learning, (AH)

ARMY OF SHADOWS (Unrated, 165 minutes) The great filmmaker Jean-Pierre Melville came by his sense of doom authentically. He felt doomed because there were people trying to kill him. These people wore the black uniform of the SS, and their annoyance at him stemmed from his missions for the French Resistance during World War II. This film, his 1969 portrait of that experience and one of the most harrowing films ever made, has finally reached the United States in a restored version. It's a strange enough film, yet weirdly great. No movie has quite gotten the clammy weight of fear, the sense of hopelessness that would necessarily haunt underground workers. To see it is to sweat through your underclothes. (SH)

ART SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL (R, 102 minutes) This movie, another collaboration between director Terry Zwigoff and screenwriter Daniel Clowes, the team behind the marvelous "Ghost World," is enjoyable and reprises the same dyspeptic attitude but lacks its predecessor's originality and humanity. Jerome (Max Minghella) is an idealistic student with dreams of making it in the art world. But he's ground down into a cynic by the selfabsorbed teachers, pretentious students and unctuous suck-ups he encounters in art school. Zwigoff and Clowes want $to\,mock\,familiar\,stereotypes, but\,beyond$ their surface nihilism and graphic language, they offer little else. (DT)

THE BENCHWARMERS (PG, 90 minutes) David Spade, Rob Schneider and Jon ("Napoleon Dynamite") Heder play three adult losers in Southern California who decide to challenge various bullyloaded Little League teams. Except, of course, they're not all losers; and the movie itself sacrifices much force when it turns out that Schneider's character is



BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD: Ex-pop singer Björk and actor, director, artist and long-time partner Matthew Barney join forces for their first creative collaboration, "Drawing Restraint," a long, strange love story that's indecipherable in any language.

an elite athlete. The movie's more peculiar conceit is a kind of tournament in which the three adult men play squads of children. What on earth do the filmmakers think that proves? (SH)

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13, 148 minutes) The most controversial thriller of the year turns out to be about as exciting as watching your parents play Sudoku. Ron Howard's adaptation of the Dan Brown novel plays it so safe that it actually may be proven to lower pulses. From a dispassionate Tom Hanks as symbologist Robert Langdon to a script carefully written to mollify Christians already upset by the film's premise of a Jesus and Mary Magdalene hook-up, this film is a bland piece of high-grade cheese. Still, the readers who gulped down Brown's thriller - in which a murder leads to revelations about a conspiracy in the Catholic church - will enjoy seeing his talky scavenger hunt reenacted. (AH)

DOWN IN THE VALLEY (R, 117 MINUTES)

This harsh but always mesmerizing little film begins with America's fondest dream —the cowboy. He's lean and lanky, calls everybody "sir" or "ma'am" and looks you straight on. Any adult would see the other thing: He's also a psycho. But no 15-yearold can, like Tobe (Evan Rachel Wood), and when she meets Harlan Carruthers (Edward Norton) in a gas station off the



NO HOLDS BARRED

Better Yet, Don't

THE FIRST FEATURE out of the gate for World Wrestling Entertainment productions, "See No Evil," is a candidate for worst movie of any year. Professional wrestler Glen "Kane" Jacobs (who should keep his day job) plays a demented, murderous oaf who lives in a dilapidated hotel. He's at the beck and call of his religious-nutso mother (Cecily Polson), who takes a dim view of, well, humanity in general. So you can imagine her feelings about the eight teen juvvies who show up one day to clean her rundown establishment so they can shave time off their sentences. No sooner have they started mopping toilets when Jacobs goes into action. When he's done with them — and sometimes before — he scoops out their eyeballs and keeps them in jam jars. Plot? Hah! I laugh in your general direction. DESSON THOMSON

freeway in the valley called San Fernando, she is taken. Norton's performance is a tour de force, and the movie is exactly what we don't have enough of: It's singular, unusual, unexpected, fresh and familiar at once. (SH)

FAILURE TO LAUNCH (PG-13, 97 minutes) This movie is one of the best American films in months and the best comedy since I don't know when. Matthew McConaughey plays a 35-year-old boyman who still lives with his parents. They hire Sarah Jessica Parker, a specialist in emptying nests, to get him to fall in love with her and move out. On this simple. sturdy frame, the writers work all kinds of comic riffs. (SH)

FRIENDS WITH MONEY (R, 88 minutes) It is the great irony of this movie that the character toiling in obscurity as a maid is played by an actress — Jennifer Aniston — who probably makes more moolah than her three castmates (Frances McDormand, Catherine Keener and Joan Cusack) put together. Nothing much happens and even less is resolved in this middling look at midlife angst among three friends with money and husbands and one who has neither. (TW)

and-cheer banality. (DT)

GOAL! THE DREAM BEGINS (PG, 118 minutes) (Mexican teenager Santiago (Kuno Becker) is a promising soccer player who dreams of making it in the superstarleagues. But how can a poorkid, without connections, hope to kick it with the likes of David Beckham? There's one way: He could be the central character in a Walt Disney movie, the kind in which phrases like "dare to dream" amount to a holy mantra. This is neither a persuasive story nor a satisfying display of soccer. Its only triumph is unintentional: proving that soccer is far too complex and interesting for a bottom-line mega-corporate studio to reduce it to stand-upand-cheer banality. (DT)

HARRY POTTER ANDD THE GOBLET OF FIRE (PG-13, 160 minutes) This is prob $ably\,the\,most\,engaging\,Potter\,film\,of\,the$ series thus far. Our central character. Hogwarts student Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) is possibly more intimidated by girls than by dragons. Wizardry is hard. And there are no spells to help negotiate the terrors of adolescence. If only he had time to figure this stuff out. And there's hardly a peaceful moment at Hogwarts. For instance, Harry just got drafted, mysteriously, into the international Triwizard Tournament. As if that wasn't enough, a large skull-and-snake apparition has appeared in the skies, a signal that the evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) has returned. (DT)

HOOT (PG, 105 minutes) Teen Roy Continued on page 16

Now Playing

Continued from page 15

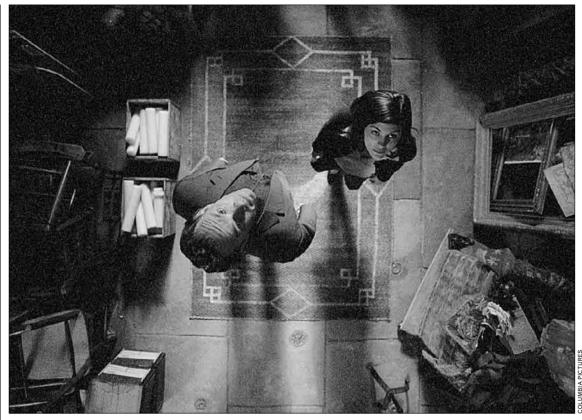
Eberhardt (Logan Lerman) and his onthe-move parents have just moved to Florida. Once again, he must adapt to a new school, which means avoiding bully Dana Matherson (Eric Phillips) and Beatrice (Brie Larson), who makes no secret of her dislike for him. But he manages to befriend her and learns that she and her stepbrother, Mullet Fingers (Cody Linley), are plotting against a developer building a pancake house atop an owl nest. Does Roy want to join them? Although Lerman shows life as Roy, he's an anomaly in a sea of insipidity. (DT) ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN (PG, 89 min-

utes) In this sequel, the happy creatures of the 2002 hit realize that the snow's getting softer, the days longer, the sun hotter. They begin a migration to find a kind of ark substitute that will let them ride out the ensuing flood. The animation is firstrate, but the story needs to catch up to the magic. (SH)

INSIDE MAN (R, 129 minutes) A deft, tense, pure thriller, this movie has great star turns and is brilliantly directed by Spike Lee. One morning, a Wall Street bank is taken over by heavily armed robbers. Cops quickly gather, headed by Detective Keith Frazier (Denzel Washington). But just when you think the movie's going to settle down to "Dog Day Afternoon II," it mutates weirdly (the first of several times) with the arrival of Jodie Foster, whose job is to make certain no one discovers what's in a certain safe deposit box. The movie is full of attractive people, smart dialogue, surprises and final satisfaction. (SH)

JUST MY LUCK (PG-13, 100 minutes) Lindsay Lohan plays an intolerably lucky young PR professional in New York who never has trouble finding a cab, a date, a dress or a promotion. Cut to: shlub. Poor Jake Hardin (Chris Pine). A wannabe record producer, he has no contacts, no charisma, no wardrobe. Well, the story is contrived to intro the two of them, and by the magic of the kiss, her luck is transferred to him. Mostly, the film seems to take place in some Disneyfied universe so alien from the real world of Manhattan power public relations that it's almost comical. In the end, I can't think of a movie that matters less than this one. (SH)

KINKY BOOTS (PG-13, 107 minutes) Chiwetel Fijofor is Simon, a crossdressing cabaret performer. He's getting older and doesn't know what to do with his life. The other half of the formula is Charlie (Joel Edgerton), who



CODE BREAKERS: Things are looking up for Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou, the stars of "The Da Vinci Code." Opening night, the thriller raked in a record \$224 million worldwide, despite bad reviews and controversy over its religious subject matter.

has inherited a failing shoe factory and needs a miracle. Simon's urbane world is pitted against Charlie's working-class culture: bigotry squares off against tolerance and so on. Though Ejiofor is charming, he never transcends the movie's pan-

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG-13, 126 minutes) The problem with the first two "Mission: Impossible" movies was that they should have been called "Mission: Highly Probable." Too often the action came down to Tom Cruise's character, Ethan Hunt, troubleshooting a computer system or dangling from a guy wire. The wires are still there in this sequel, but director J.J. Abrams makes an impressive feature debut with the best installment yet. Cruise is at his scowling/smiling best as he jumps, shoots and leaves. Best is Philip Seymour Hoffman as the baddie. (AH)

MRS. PALFREY AT THE CLAREMONT

(Unrated, 108 minutes) Intelligent, compassionate Mrs. Palfrey (Joan Plowright) moves into a retirement hotel in London to fill out her days. First issue: the zany cohabitants. Then the wrinkle. Lonely Mrs. Palfrey meets a young man. No, no sex, they're British. Instead the beautiful writer Ludovic Meyer (Rupert Friend) is her soul mate. One can easily see where the film is going, and that's where it goes. (SH)

OVER THE HEDGE (PG, 87 minutes) The woodland creatures' habitat is losing ground to development. They've got no

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245 320 400 430 500 525) 645 715 745 815 845 930 1000 1030 1100 1140 1210 1235 OC & DA: DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) DIG ★

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IUST MY LUCK (PG-13) DIG (1120 200 425 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 (PG-13) DIG (135 435) 710 740 1010 UNITED 93 (R) - ID REQ'D DIG AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) DIG (1030 130 430) 730 1030 (1255 340) 630 915 HANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1110 140 410) 700

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Adv. Tix on Sale CARS (G) * Adv. Tix on Sale THE BREAK-UP (PG-13) *

(-MEN 3 (PG-13) DIG ★ (1000 1030 1130 1230 1245 115 215 24 320 400 430 500 525) 645 715 745 815 845 930 1000 1030 1100

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POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16 FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10 1110 W Ox Road

choice but to slip through the big hedge

that rings the human world and make for the trash cans. Welcome to an amusing war between cute critters and crass

consumers. On the good side, we have

a scheming raccoon named RJ (voiced

by Bruce Willis) and his pals. And in the

villains' corner, we have Gladys (Allison

Janney), a homemaker with the soul of

Cruella De Vil who dispatches an exter-

minator to take care of the furry invaders.

Jokes are packed into every pixel of this

movie, but there's such a knowing swag-

ger about its comedy, there seems to be

POSEIDON (PG-13, 97 minutes) When the

big wave hits the luxury liner, it hits like a

sledgehammer wielded by an angry sea

god. Director Wolfgang Petersen doesn't

spare the carnage. People die in the hun-

dreds, the thousands. Against this car-

nival of death, the film quickly isolates

a small team of free thinkers who head

upward, trusting their instincts over offi-

cial bromides. The movie isn't cute, funny,

warm, nice, inspirational or uplifting. It's about the incredible labor of survival in

a world turned totally socionathic in an

Continued on page 18

no innocence in the mix at all. (DT)

Adv. Tix on Sale KORN IN CONCERT (R) - ID REQ'D ★
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145 215 245 315 340 400 430 500 530) 600 620 645 715 745 815 845 910 930 1000 1030 1100 1130 1200

G UP WITH THE STEINS (PG-13) DIG (1110 135 415) 725

SEE NO EVIL (R) - ID REQ'D (1020 1245 300 520) 735 950 1200 AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) DIG

HANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R) - ID REQ'D (1040 110 350) 700 940

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JUST MY LUCK (PG-13) DIG (1100) (1115 155 450) 735 1010 (1210 350) 705 1005

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X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) ■ © ✓ 11:40, 2:25,

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) ✓ 10.45, 11.25, 12.00, 1.05, 2.05, 245, 325, 4:25, 5:36, 6:15, 7:10, 7:50, 8:55, 9:45, 10:35, 11:30 OVER THE HEDGE (PG) ✓ 10.40, 11.30, 12:10, 12:55, 1:40, 2:30, 3:10, 3:55, 4:50, 5:30, 6:10, 7:05, 7:40, 8:25, 9:15, 9:55

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THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) ✓ 11:20, 12:30, 1:30, 2:50, 4:10, 5:00, 6:20, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:50, 11:50

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) [[[[]]] 1:30, 5:00, 8:30, 11:50

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) ✓ 11:10, 12:00, 1:20, 2:15, 3:45, 4:45, 5:55, 7:00, 8:10, 9:10, 10:20, 11:20, 12:25

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THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) ✓ 12:45, 3:00, 4:15, 6:30, 7:45,

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) ✓ 12:30, 1:20, 2:40, 3:30, 5:00, 6:15,

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) \bigcirc **1** 12:30, 1:20, 2:40, 3:30, 5:00, 6:15, 7:10, 8:10, 9:35, 10:10

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 1:55, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40

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WATER (PG13) 2:00. 2:20. 4:30. 5:00. 7:00. 7:40. 9:30. 10:10

GOAL! THE DREAM BEGINS (PG) 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 10:20

AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) 1:40, 4:20, 7:20, 9:45

SOMERSAULT (NR-NOT RATED) 2:45, 7:30

WAH-WAH (R) 2:10, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40

JUST MY LUCK (PG13) 1:30 4:10 7:10 9:30

POSEIDON (PG13) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN (PG) 1:00, 3:10, 5:15

RV (PG) 12:00, 2:10, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

STICK IT (PG13) 7:30, 9:50

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) ✓ 12:00, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

SEE NO EVIL (R) / 11:30, 1:35, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30, 12:35

POSEIDON (PG13) 11:25, 1:45, 4:05, 6:30, 9:00, 11:40

9:30, 10:00, 10:45, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30

JUST MY LUCK (PG13) 12:10 5:10 10:10

SEE NO EVIL (R) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

INSIDE MAN (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10

RV (PG) 12:00, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

POSFIDON (PG13) 12:15 2:40 5:10 7:30 9:50

STICK IT (PG13) 11:15, 1:50, 4:20

RV (PG) 2:40 7:40

KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS (PG13) ✓ 10:30, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30

POSEIDON (PG13) 12:00, 2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50, 10:55

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THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) ✓ 10:30, 11:20, 12:00, 12:30 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:30

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) ■ © ✓ 12:00, 3:30, 7:00,

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) ✓ 11:25, 11:55, 12:25, 1:55, 2:25, 2:55, 4:20, 4:55, 5:25, 6:55, 7:25, 7:55, 9:25, 9:55, 10:25, 11:55 SEE NO EVIL (R) / 12:05, 2:25, 4:50, 7:10, 9:35, 11:50 JUST MY LUCK (PG13) 10:55, 1:25, 3:55

POSEIDON (PG13) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 6:35, 7:35, 9:10, 10:10, 11:35,

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 11:05, 12:05, 2:05, 3:05, 5:05, 6:40, 7:40, 8:40, 9:40, 10:40, 11:40, 12:40 RV (PG) 11:35, 2:10, 4:35

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THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) 12:30, 1:00, 3:45, 4:15, 7:00, 7:30,

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JUST MY LUCK (PG13) 4:50, 9:45 POSEIDON (PG13) 1:45, 4:40, 8:00, 10:20
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10

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AMC SELECT

AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) 1:10, 7:10

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE

Jenifer and Wisconsin 202-537-9553

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) 11:45, 12:30, 1:15, 3:00, 3:45, 4:30,

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 11:30, 12:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:05, 5:00, 6:05,

JUST MY LUCK (PG13) 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

AMC SELECT

AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) 1:30, 4:15, 7:25, 10:00

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.W. 202-342-6441 821

PRESENTED IN DIGITAL PROJECTION

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 1:15, 3:25, 5:40,

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 11:45, 45, 2:40, 4:50, 5:35, 7:45, 8:30, 10:35,

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) 11:40, 12:25, 1:10, 1:55, 2:50. 3:35, 4:20, 5:05, 6:00, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 9:00, 10:00, 10:45, 11:30,

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) @ 12:20, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40 OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 12:00, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:35 POSEIDON (PG13) 12:10, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

AMC SELECT

THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R) 12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:45,

LOEWS WISCONSIN AVE. 6

4000 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. 202-244-0882 714

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 1:30, 2:45, 3:30, 4:00, 4:15, 5:20, 6:15, 6:45, 7:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 9:45 POSEIDON (PG13) 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40 INSIDE MAN (R) 1:10, 4:05, 6:50, 9:35

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5

North Bethesda 310-423-1014 741

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) 1:15 4:15 7:00 10:00 THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15 OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 2:10, 4:25, 7:10, 9:15 POSEIDON (PG13) 2:05, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30 MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 1:25, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45

/-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount co

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle. Ste 886 703-998-4262

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) / 10:30, 11:00, 11:15, 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45, 2:00, 3:00, 3:30, 4:15, 4:45, 5:00, 5:45, 6:15, 6:45, 7:15, 7:30, 8:15, 9:00, 9:30, 10:15, 10:30, 11:00; 11:30 PM

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) ✓ 10:45, 11:10, 12:00, 12:40, 2:10, 2:45, 3:15, 4:10, 5:40, 6:20, 7:00, 7:35, 9:15, 9:45, 10:20, 10:55 **OVER THE HEDGE (PG)** ✓ 11:05, 12:05, 12:35, 1:10, 2:35, 2:55, 3:25, 4:50, 5:20, 5:50, 7:10, 8:10, 9:25, 10:25, 11:35

SEE NO EVIL (R) ✓ 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50 JUST MY LUCK (PG13) 11:30, 2:05, 4:40

POSEIDON (PG13) 11:25, 1:55, 4:35, 7:05, 8:05, 9:40, 10:40 MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 10:50, 12:20, 1:35, 3:10, 4:25, 6:10, 7:20, 7:50, 9:05, 10:05, 10:50 RV (PG) 1:40, 7:40

AMC SELECT

AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) 10:55, 4:05, 10:10

AMC RIVERTOWNE 12

Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd.

703-998-4AMC X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) ✓ 12:20, 1:30, 2:45, 4:10, 5:25, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:45

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) ✓ 12:25, 1:30, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00,

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) ✓ 12:35, 1:15, 3:10, 4:15, 5:40, 7:10,

JUST MY LUCK (PG13) / 1:40 5:10

POSEIDON (PG13) 2:00, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00 MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 12:45, 1:20, 3:45, 4:30, 6:45, 7:30, 9:45, 10:20

SILENT HILL (R) 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:25 SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG13) 7:50, 10:20

AMC SELECT

AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) 1:00, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15

LOEWS FAIRFAX SQUARE 8

8065 Leesburg Pike 703-506-9857 802

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:20,

OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 12:30, 1:15, 2:30, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, JUST MY LUCK (PG13) 12:45, 3:00, 5:25, 7:30

POSFIDON (PG13) 10:15 PM IISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 1:00, 4:15, 7:15, 10:10

RV (PG) 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:55, 10:25

AMC SELECT

AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) 1:45, 4:45, 7:50, 10:40

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12

800 Shopper's Way, Largo 301-324-4220 844

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG13) 11:45, 12:45, 1:15, 2:15, 3:45, 4:05, 5:05, 6:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:30, 11:15 THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) 12:05, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 7:45 10:15, 11:00

THE DA VINCI CODE (PG13) @ 1:00, 4:30, 7:45, 11:00 **OVER THE HEDGE (PG)** 12:10, 1:30, 2:40, 3:40, 4:50, 5:50, 7:10,

SFF NO EVIL (R) 12:20 2:50 5:25 7:50 10:25

POSEIDON (PG13) 2:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35 MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 2:20, 5:20, 7:20, 8:20, 10:10,

SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG13) 1:05, 3:10, 5:15

AMC SELECT

AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7

2772 South Randolph

703-671-0910 801

AMC SELECT

KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS (PG13) 1:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:20 WAH-WAH (R) 2:00 7:40

ART SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:50, 10:10 THE LOST CITY (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00 WATER (PG13) 1:00, 3:40, 7:30, 9:50 FRIENDS WITH MONEY (R) 1:30, 3:30, 7:30, 9:30

KINKY BOOTS (PG13) 4:40, 9:40 THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:10

LOEWS UPTOWN 1

3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W. 202-966-5400 713

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG13) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45

KINKY BOOTS (PG13) 5:10, 10:00

We could go on all day.

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10:00, 10:30, 11:00 *KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS (PG-13) 11:35, 2:05, 4:40, 7:20, 7:45 *THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) 5, 12:15, 12:50, 1:45, 3:10, 3 . 5:45, 6:40, 7:30, 8:25, 9:00

*OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 11:15, 12:05, 12:45, 1:20, 2:20, 2:50 3:35, 4:45, 5:15, 5:50, 6:50, 7:40 3:10, 9:25, 9:50, 10:20

*SEE NO EVIL (R) 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25 *POSEIDON (PG-13) 11:05, 1:35, 4:05, 6:35, 9:05 *JUST MY LUCK (PG-13)

*GOAL (PG-13) MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG-13) AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG)

2:10, 7:25 **UNITED 93 (R)** 12:55, 4:20, 7:35, 10:35 **RV (PG)** STICK IT (PG-13) 12:35, 7:05 SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG-13) 5:05, 10:45

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY

7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth. 301-767-9555 BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM! UNITED 93 (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:40 THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55 **OVER THE HEDGE (PG)** 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:15, 9:25

26, 2006

at Beltway Plaza

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Center Court Beltway Exit 23, W. on Greenbelt Rd. 301-220-1155 -ID required !) No Pass/No Discount Ticket (!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM ONLY \$5.00 X MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG-13) 7:30, 8:10, 10:10, 10:45 THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) (I) 1:00, 2:00, 4:10, 5:10 (I) 1:00, 2:00, 4:10, 5:10 (I) 7:15, 8:15, 10:30 (I) 7:15, 8:15, 10:30 (I) 7:16, 8:15, 10:30 (I) 1:10, 1:35, 3:05, 3:30 (I) 1:10, 1:35, 3:00, 3:35, 5:45, 8:00, 10:40 (I) 1:20, 3:35, 5:45, 8:00, 10:40 (I) 1:20, 3:35, 5:45, 8:00, 10:40 (I) 1:31, 3:40, 7:20, 10:20 (I) 1:30, 7

:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

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Moviefone (301 or 202) 333-FILM #805 Bargain Mats. all shows before 6 pm & FRIENDS WITH MONEY (R) 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 9:55 THE PROPOSITION (NR) KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS (PG-13) 2.10, 4.25, 7:30, 9:40 **DOWN IN THE VALLEY (NR)** 1:35, 9:30

1.35, 9.30 MRS PAI FREY AT THE CLAREMONT (NR) 4:10, 6:50 WATER (PG-13) 1:40, 4:15, 7:05, 9:50 THE LOST CITY (R) 2:05, 5:10, 8:15

2:05, 5:10, 8:15 THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R) 2:10, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 WAH-WAH (R) 2:00, 7:20 ART SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL (R) 4:35, 10:00

LAUREL CINEMA 6

LAUREL SHOPPING CENTER RT. 1 301-604-2885 SHOWS BEFORE 6PM \$5.00 X MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG-13) 5:20, 7:30, 9:40 STICK IT (PG-13) 7:20 THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) 110, 7:00, 9:45 OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 5:10, 7:15, 9:25 POSEIDON (PG-13) 4:50, 9:30 MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG-13) 4:30, 7:10, 9:35

MARLOW 6 THEATRES

Temple Hills, Md. 301-316 Showtimes subject to change 301-316-1031 THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 X MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG-13) 12:15, 1:00, 2:30, 3:15, 4:45, 5:30 7:00, 7:45, 9:15, 10:00

AKEELAH AND THE BEE (PG) 12:40, 3:10 5:35 SILENT HILL (R) 8:00, 10:30 OVER THE HEDGE (PG) 12:45, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:40 SEE NO EVIL (PG-13) 12:30, 2:25, 4:20, 6:15, 8:10, 10:05

P&G OLD GREENBELT 301-474-9744 40 ft. Screen At intersection of Crescent & Southway www.pgtheatres.com FRIENDS WITH MONEY (R) (5:30 @ \$5.00) 7:30, 9:30

VIRGINIA

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815½ King Street 703-683-8888 www.oldtowntheater.com THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13)

Sun 1:30, 4:20, 7:15

7 <u>\$</u>. 703-978-6991 FAIRFAX CINEMA ARTS THEATRE FAIR CITY MALL RT. 236 & PICKETT RD.

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Check out our specials! LOST CITY (R) 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:00 KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS (PG-13) DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) 10:10, 12;30, 2:30, 4:45, 7:50, 9:40 DA VINCI CODE (PG-13) 10:00, 10:30, 1:00, 1:30, 4:00 4:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:15 WATER (PG-13) WATER (PG-13) 11:55, 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55 MRS. PALFREY AT THE CLAREMONT (NR)

10:00, 12:00, 4:25, 7:20 ART SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL (R)

CONSOLIDATED THEATRES KINGSTOWNE 16

5910 Kingstowne Towne Center Alexandria, Va. 703-822-4956

*SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT/NO PASSES

*X-MEN: THE LAST STAND (PG-13)
11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:45, 1:30, 2:00
2:30, 3:15, 4:00, 4:30, 5:00, 5:50, 6:30
7:25, 8:00, 8:30, 9:20, 10:05, 10:35
**THE DA VINCI CODE (PG-13)
11:45, 12:20, 1:00, 1:45, 3:00, 3:40, 4:15, 5:15, 6:20, 7:10, 8:15, 9:00, 9:45, 10:25
**OVER THE HEDGE (PG)
11:15, 12:10, 12:00, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40 FOUR THE HEDGE (PG)

11.15, 12-10, 1:20, 2:20, 3:30, 4:40
5:40, 6:50, 7:50, 9:10, 10:10

*SEE NO EVIL (R)
12:40, 3:10, 5:25, 7:35, 10:00

POSEIDON (PG-13)
11:40, 1:55, 4:20, 6:40, 9:30

JUST MY LUCK (PG)
11:50, 2:15, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III (PG-13)
12:30, 3:50, 7:20, 9:55 12:30, 3:50, 7:00, 9:55 RV (PG) 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:55, 10:20 STICK IT (PG-13) 11:55, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15

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BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM 2 & BARGAIN WARMAN (R)
LADY VENGEANCE (R)
2:00 4:35, 7:20, 10:00 LADY VENGEANCE (R)
11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00
THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R)
1:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30
GIULIANI TIME (NR)
11:20, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45
THE LOST CITY (R)
11:05, 2:10, 5:15, 8:30
ART SCHOOL COMPIDENTIAL (NR)
11:40, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50 11:40, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 9: **DOWN IN THE VALLEY (NR)** 11:10, 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:40 DRAWING RESTRAINT 9 (NR)

11:00, 1:55, 5:05, 8:15 **ARMY OF SHADOWS (NR)** 11:15, 2:05, 5:00, 8:00

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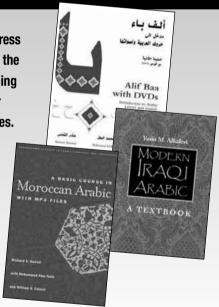
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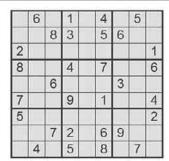
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Continued from page 16

instant. (SH)

RV (PG, 98 minutes) Robin Williams is Bob Munro, who has canceled his Hawaii vacation so he can complete a presentation for his boss. He decides to take the family to the Rockies, by RV, figuring he can get the work done behind his wife's back and still give the family a bonding holiday. Although Williams peppers his screen time with trademark jokes, the real "comedy" occurs as he tries to navigate the RV and keep a step ahead of the Gornickes, a terminally cheery family from Texas. Will Bob get that presentation done? Will the family bond? And which one of these levers do you push to send the RV careening off the mountain? (DT)

SCARY MOVIE 4 (PG-13, 83 minutes) This movie may be a No.4 in official sequence, but it's actually a No. 2 in pedigree. That's because the first two films were made by the Wayans, the genius family, But by No. 3, the Wayans DNA had vanished and the direction moved to Jerry Zucker, who basically rumbles and bumbles all over the place here, dipping into this movie or that movie when it amuses him. Combining disparate story lines, of course, leads to unavoidable stupidity. But the movie is funny enough to quickly turn the hands on your watch. (AH)

SILENT HILL (R, 127 minutes) So this mom named Rose (Radha Mitchell) and her husband (Sean Bean) are looking for their daughter Sharon (Jodelle Ferland). They stumble into a foreboding place called Silent Hill, where all manner of weirdos emerge to thwart them. Game fans will appreciate the movie's cool monsterish creations, but the film never turns the video-game parareality into compelling drama. (DT)

SOMERSAULT (UNRATED, 106 MINUTES) Offering a slender slice of contemporary Australian life, this film reflects surprisingly assured filmmaking sensibilities, especially when it comes to portraying the foibles and preoccupations of young women at loose ends. Writer-director Cate Shortland has made a methodically paced drama about a 16-yearold girl named Heidi (Abbie Cornish) who makes an ill-advised pass at her mother's boyfriend, then sets out on a self-imposed exile of promiscuity and rootlessness. Shortland skillfully captures the odd mix of confusion and self-assurance of a young woman coming into her sexual and psychological own. (AH)

STICK IT (PG-13, 103 minutes) This gym-

The Washington Post



A Monumental Task?

The quest to humanize the exalted but rather remote — father of our country. Also, Memorial Day programs. | TV Week

The Debate Goes On:

Michele Wucker's new book "Lockout" argues that America's prosperity is dependent upon continued immigration. \mid Book World

nastics fable sets itself up along standard lines: Canadian actress Missy Peregrym plays an elite gymnast who marched out of a major competition, costing everyone a gold medal. A few years later she's a mountain-bike punk in Texas, when she runs afoul of the law and is sentenced to gymnastics camp as juvie detention center! There, she is broken Parris Islandstyle, then reassembles herself into a champion. The film veers into fresh territory but not dramatically satisfying territory, (SH)

THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R, 92 minutes) As a lobbyist for the tobacco industry, Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart) realizes that disingenuousness is a moral survival strategy: Don't think of cigarettes as a health hazard, Nick says, consider them a symbol of America's right to choose. Watching Nick get away with murder is the fun of this adaptation of Christopher Buckley's 1994 novel. But as a satire on Tobacco Inc.'s ability to market carbon monoxide as the elixir of life, this movie should be packing more nicotine. (DT)

UNITED 93 (R. 111 minutes) Those who find meaning and catharsis by watching reenactments on the big screen will be well rewarded by Paul Greengrass's taut

Continued on page 21



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Now Playing

Continued from page 18

thriller that, minute by agonizing minute, follows the only plane not to reach its target, the passengers having overtaken the aircraft in an act of collective heroism. Greengrass avoids politics altogether, focusing instead on the tick-tock of how reality slowly dawned on an improbably gorgeous late summer morning. This may be the best movie I ever hated. (AH)

WAH-WAH (R.97 minutes) Actor-turneddirector Richard E. Grant offers a bleakly entertaining, autobiographical account of his family life in 1960s Swaziland. British by heritage but Swazi-born, Ralph (played at 10 by Zac Fox and as a teenager by Nicholas Hoult) is inextricably tied to the British expatriates who drink too much and sleep with one another's spouses. When Ralph's mother leaves his hard-drinking father, his home life becomes even more traumatic. Grant's unblinking but sympathetic depiction of this emotionally unhinged world makes the viewer feel like an illicit, enlightened



UP. OVER & OUT: Those pesky humans are continuing to encroach on the animals' turf. What's an animated woodland creature to do but invade back and take on the crass consumers? Therein lies the central tension in Dreamworks' "Over the Hedge."

gawker, and it has the enormous fringe benefit of fine performers. (DT)

WATER (PG-13, 117 minutes) Set in 1930s India, this is something rare in the world of movies: an artistic muckraker. The subject is "widow wastage," the tradition in which a widow is consigned to an ashram. Just such a thing occurs when Chuyia (magically portrayed by Sarala) is left at an ashram by her embittered father. But Chuyia, a child bride of 8, is peculiarly resilient; she soon has the whole place in a clamor. (SH)

WILD SAFARI 3D (Unrated, 45 minutes) This Imax tour of some of the most beautiful parks and game preserves in South Africa is surprisingly thrill-free. It takes viewers on a photographic hunt for Africa's "Big Five." And filmmaker Ben Stassen bags his elephants, lions, leopards, rhinos and cape buffalo, along with a few zebras, giraffes and sundry antelopes thrown in for good measure. (AH)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER. MICHAEL O'SHLLIVAN AND DESSON THOMSON FOR MORE CAPSILLES AND FILL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS SEE THE WASHING-TON POST WEEKEND SECTION

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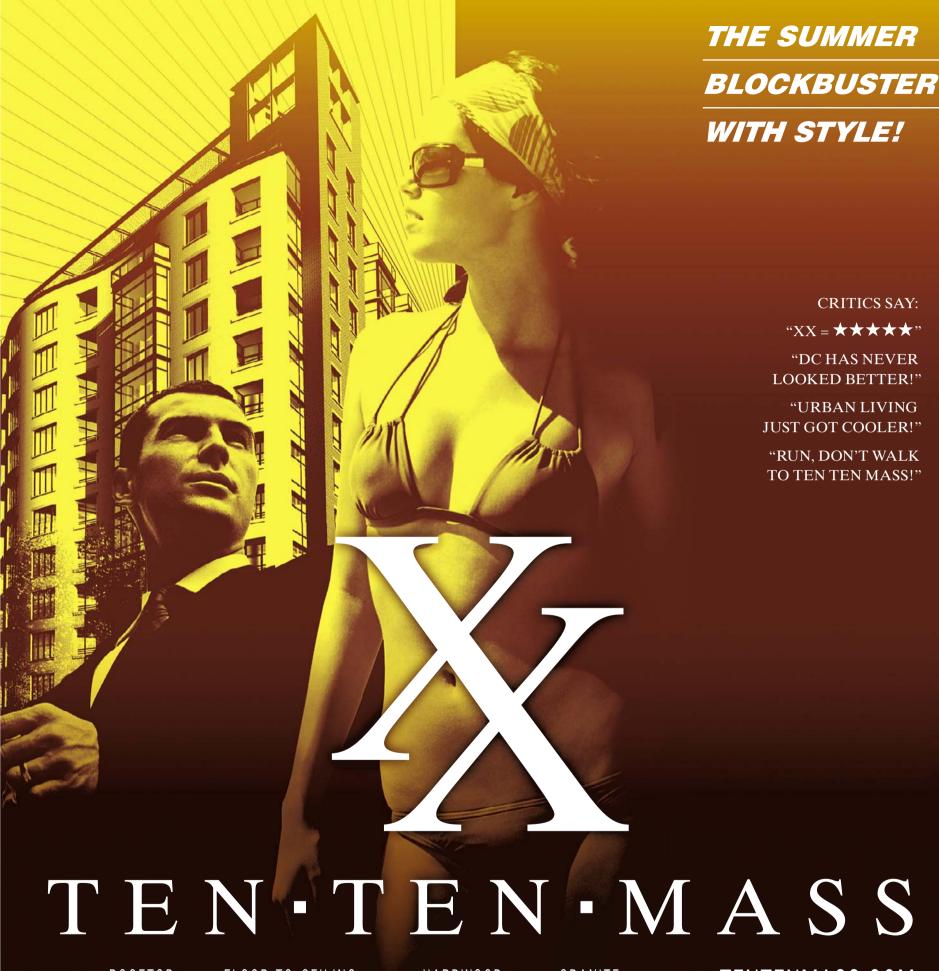
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McWilliams | Ballard



ME TOO: Sean "Diddy" Combs is not letting ex-girlfriend Jennifer Lopez have all the fun. Days after publicizing JLo's TV dance venture, MTV announced it will be partnering with Combs on a competition series focusing on street-dance troupes.



Television

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

A NATURAL SELECTION

Prom night rears its hairy head on "MY GYM PARTNER'S A MONKEY" (Fri., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., Cartoon Network). This cartoon follows the hijinx of Adam Lyon, who's been confused with a real lion and assigned to join the zoo creatures in the Charles Darwin Middle School.

MORE LIKE DOG EMPEROR

Speaking of animals, the National Geographic Channel offers a three-hour marathon of "THE DOG WHISPERER" (Fri., 8 p.m., National Geographic). Host Cesar Millan and his show have become pop icons in a very short period of time.

HOT BATTLEFIELD ACTION

Viewers in search of epic adventure are in luck. Every Saturday night this summer, BBC America offers two hours of battlefield action, exotic travel and the chance for romance and heartbreak with the 1993 series "SHARPE'S RIFLES" (Sat., 9 p.m., BBC America). "Sharpe" stars Sean Bean ("Lord of the Rings")



APROPOS: Sunday, the nation says "thank you," to the National Guard.

as Richard Sharpe, a fictional legend of the Napoleonic wars. The action begins in 1809 when Sharpe is merely a resourceful sergeant. His star begins to rise when he saves the life of the future Duke of Wellington. He's promoted quickly and put in command of a group of riflemen, sent on secret missions in Spain and other adventures that will keep "Sharpe's Rifles" firing away for the next 15 weeks.

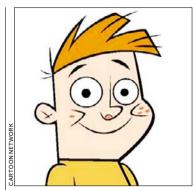
Y'ALL IN THE FAMILY

John Schneider ("Dukes of Hazzard") hosts the "20 GREATEST COUNTRY COMEDY SHOWS" (Sat., 8 p.m., CMT). The list is long and impressive, from "The Andy Griffith Show" to "My Name is Earl." No round-up of rural humor is complete without the Hooterville trilogy, "Beverly Hillbillies," "Green Acres" and "Petticoat Junction." "Hee Haw" is a shoe-in as well. Interviews include Reba McEntire ("Reba"), Larry the Cable Guy ("Blue Collar TV"), Dixie Carter

("Designing Women"), Vicki Lawrence ("Mama's Family"), Brett Butler ("Grace Under Fire") and Jim Nabors ("Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.").

HONORING THE GUARD

Gary Sinise and Joe Mantegna co-host the "NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT" (Sun., 8 p.m., PBS). This year's concert focuses on the sacrifices of the National Guard. The concert also salutes the pilots who flew with the Air Force during World War II, when it was still part of the Army. Scheduled performers include country stars Lee Ann Womack and Big & Rich. Peter Gallagher also sings. He may be famous for his role as Sandy Cohen on "The O.C.," but he has a long history of appearing in musicals. Oscarwinner Dianne Wiest appears, as does Charles Durning. The actor and World War II veteran, who just appeared in the Steven King thriller "Desperation" and



SO MANY MEMORIES: Adam Lyon's school's full of animals. Whose wasn't?

returns in next week's "Rescue Me," has been a regular at these ceremonies for years. Opera singer Frederica von Stade and the National Symphony Orchestra will perform under the direction of maestro Erich Kunzel. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

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AUTO RACING

In Indy: Bryan Herta, who is on the powerful Andretti Green Racing team, drives this weekend in relative anonimity. But watch out! | **28**

Veekend



FALLING FLAT The Nationals have gone through player after player, including Alex Escobar, who had the job before injuring his hamstring, searching for a center fielder.

Dead Center

The Nats continue to search for a regular starter in center field

NATIONALS | Alex Escobar was nearly to first base when he felt it.

Pop.

He didn't tell anyone. Whether he wanted to keep the pain in his left hamstring a secret, or whether he simply didn't want to believe it, is of little consequence. Once a top prospect, the 27-year-old outfielder had missed more than two full seasons with injuries since 2002. He had overcome a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee and broken right foot.

And a day earlier, he had been

handed the Washington Nationals' center field job. With three base hits in his first two games, he was showing that he wanted to hold on to the spot. But that changed in his third at-bat Sunday. By Monday, he was back on the disabled list.

And the Nationals were again looking for a center fielder.

"It's very frustrating for me especially dealing with a year and a half out and coming back this year and doing well," he said. "Having a chance again up here and all of a sudden my leg gives out."

Escobar was the Nationals' fourth try at finding a regular in center. Speedster Brandon Watson started the season but was jettisoned back to Triple-A after hitting





Byrd

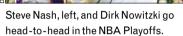
Jackson

.179 in nine games. Ryan Church's .215 batting average couldn't keep him with the big club.

Through it all, Marlon Byrd has been shuffled in and out, but the Nationals don't see him as an everyday player.

Asked about the state of the outfield, manager Frank Robinson said, "It looks like somebody threw a hand grenade out there."

ineup



- → THEY GOT GAME: The Mavericks are in a hole against Phoenix. The two will play both Friday (8:30 p.m. on TNT) and Sunday (8:30 p.m. on TNT). The Pistons and Heat fill the basketball void on Saturday (8 p.m. on ESPN).
- → **DODGEBALL:** The Nationals finish up a 10-game homestand with three games against the Dodgers on Friday (7 p.m. on Ch20), Saturday (1:20 p.m. on FOX) and Sunday (1 p.m. on MASN).
- → CITY OF ANGELS: Meanwhile, the Orioles stay on the West Coast and play the other L.A. team, the Angels, on Friday (10 p.m. on MASN), Sautrday (10 p.m. on MASN) and Sunday (3:30 p.m. on MASN).
- → NOT IN KANSAS: Two weeks ago, United beat the Kansas City Wizards at home, Saturday (8:30 p.m. on Comcast) D.C. is on the road in Kansas City

starts between May
18 and May 23.

"He seems to
have a good bat,"
Robinson said. "He
seems to know what
he wants to do at the
plate."

year, Jackson has given the

manager some reason for

optimism. He homered

in three consecutive

The Nationals are hopeful

Escobar can return when his 15 days

on the disabled list are up, and they

used his roster spot to recall a much-

needed relief pitcher. For now, center

field will likely be manned by Byrd

and journeyman Damian Jackson,

who has played second base, third

base, shortstop, left field and center

A career .245 hitter entering the

field this season.

Now if only the Nationals can figure out what they want to do at center field. Derek Turner





HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL | Good Sports High school football coaches in Connecticut will have to be good sports this fall — or risk a suspension. The football committee of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference is adopting a "score management" policy that will suspend coaches whose teams win by more than 50 points. A rout is considered an unsportsmanlike infraction and the coach of the offending team will be disqualified from coaching the next game. (AP)



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Federer's Last Big Conquest

TENNIS | Roger Federer pays attention to what people think.

He hears what's said about his game, his legacy. He also considers what's said about Pete Sampras, the player to whom his skills, drive and body of work are most often compared.

And here's what sticks with Federer, what motivates him to work harder and — seems impossible, right? — improve what's made him No. 1 in the rankings for the past 121 weeks and counting:

If he never does manage to win the French Open, the only Grand Slam tournament he's yet to conquer, Federer will leave himself open to the same sort of criticism leveled at Sampras for never mastering the red clay of Roland Garros.

"Many people take away things from Sampras because he never won the French, saying his career was not complete, which I totally don't agree with. I think he had the



As dominant as he's been, No. 1 Roger Federer still hasn't won a French Open.

best career of any player ever, you know? So to say his career is not complete, that is not fair," Federer said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press this week.

When play starts at the French Open on Sunday — it's a 15-day event for the first time — Federer will be trying to become the sixth man with a career Grand Slam. He'll also be bidding to win his fourth straight major championship, following Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and Australian Open, which would make him the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to hold all of the sport's top titles simultaneously. HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)

Taking Their Time

Nascar's longest race will seem even longer with extra pit stops

AUTO RACING | It isn't an endurance race, but sometimes the Coca-Cola 600 can feel like one.

The longest race on the NASCAR Nextel Cup schedule takes place Sunday evening at Lowe's Motor Speedway, and running 600 miles on a 1.5-mile oval can take a while.

Last May's event took 5 hours, 13 minutes and 52 seconds to complete.

Matt Kenseth, whose first Cup win came in the 600 in 2000, said it can be tough on the drivers.

"If it's a hot night, it definitely feels longer than a 500-mile race," Kenseth said.

"The 600 should be interesting this year," he added. "Well, it's usually interesting every year because so much can happen in that extra 100 miles. But, this year, particularly, with the harder tires and the smaller fuel cells. There are going



Kasey Kahne, left, and Jeremy Mayfield run practice laps for the Coca-Cola 600.

to be so many pit stops and stops where 40 or more cars are on pit road, because you're going to have to come down for fuel at least every 30 laps, and that's assuming it stays green.

Kenseth was referring to the fact that NASCAR is requiring teams to use 14-gallon fuel tanks this year at Lowe's instead of the usual 22-gallon tanks in order to force teams to pit more often. The

reason is NASCAR's fear that excessive tire wear between fuel stops on the newly paved track, even with the harder tires, could cause problems.

"It's going to be a little bit of a mess with the small fuel cell, but if you get a lot of greens, it's probably just as fast as 500 miles at Darlington really because 500 miles at Darlington is a long time too," Kenseth said. (AP)



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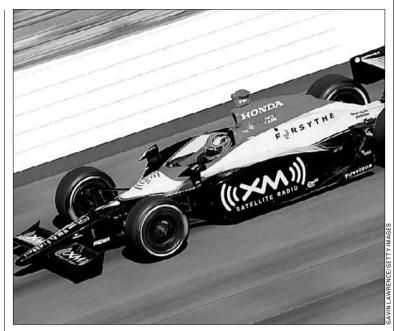
INDY 500 | For anyone thinking about a dark horse Sunday in the Indianapolis 500, look no further than the inside of the sixth row.

That's where Bryan Herta will start in a bid to back up three top-10 finishes in the 500, including fourth- and third-place runs the past two years.

Herta is the least publicized member of the powerful Andretti Green Racing team that won last year with Dan Wheldon — now part of Target Chip Ganassi Racing. But Herta, who turned 36 on Tuesday, has proven before he can win - taking the checkered flags in Champ Car races in 1998 and 1999 and winning IRL events in 2003 and 2005.

One advantage Herta has here, though, is that he gets to work mostly in anonymity as his teammates get most of the attention.

AGR co-owner Michael Andretti, who has led more laps here than any other non-winner, is making a comeback after retiring



Bryan Herta, a dark horse this weekend, will start in the sixth row at Indianapolis.

following the 2003 race in order to race against his son, heralded rookie Marco Andretti.

Tony Kanaan won the pole here last year after finishing third and second the two previous Mays, while Dario Franchitti, the fourth member of the five-driver team, is a longtime open-wheel star who is married to

movie star Ashlev Judd.

Herta doesn't worry about being in the spotlight, though.

"I've done this long enough that I'm at a point in my career where I realize the person I most have to satisfy is myself," he said. "For a long time, I wasn't very happy." MIKE HARRIS (AP)

Up for the Final Test

Virginia favored to face Maryland in lacrosse championship Monday

COLLEGE LACROSSE | In a year that will be remembered more for what went wrong off the field, a pair of ACC teams enter this weekend with a chance to claim glory in Final Four of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championships.

Tune into SportsCenter and you're far more likely to hear about the sexual assault allegations against Duke's men's team than you are about Virginia's perfect season. But at 15-0, the Cavaliers are the clear favorite this weekend.

"I think we have a certain confidence about ourselves and about our teammates," Virginia midfielder Kyle Dixon said. "I think that's the key to our team's success: We just enjoy each other's company out there, and we have a lot of fun out on the field."

But Virginia is not necessarily a shoe-in. This tournament hasn't followed a predictable script and has plenty of storylines left:

- · Virginia will take on fifthseeded Syracuse (10-4, including a March 4 loss to the Cavaliers) in the semifinals Saturday. The Orange returns to the Final Four after missing the soiree last year for the first time in 23 years.
- Unseeded Massachusetts (12-4) is the Cinderella of the group. making its first trip to the Final Four after scoring five goals in the fourth quarter and another in overtime to upset No. 3 seed Hofstra.
- There are potential heroes to spare, with four Tewaaraton Trophy finalists (Division I player of the year) still playing: Virginia seniors Dixon and Matt Ward, UMass' Sean Morris and Maryland's Joe Walters, the ACC Player of the Year.

Walters and Maryland will take on UMass in the first semifinal game Saturday. The Terps (12-4) made easy work of Denver and Princeton in the tournament, but haven't fared well against Virginia, dropping a pair of games to the Cavaliers earlier this season. ERIC BRANDNER



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Phillies starter Brett Myers gets his first win in more than a month.

Big Day From Utley Helps Phillies Avoid Sweep by Mets

Chase Utley had four hits, Brett Myers won for the first time in more than a month and the Philadelphia Phillies avoided a three-game sweep with a 5-3 victory over the New York Mets on Thursday. Bobby Abreu and Rvan Howard each homered and drove in two runs for the Phillies. who won for only the second time in nine tries and trimmed New York's lead in the NL East to four games. Utley went 4-for-5 in his first career four-hit game. (AP)

Kasten, Lerner Meet With **Nationals Players, Coaches**

Ted Lerner, Stan Kasten and other members of the group that is buying the Nationals held their first meeting with players and coaches. Kasten



said the new ownership will begin meeting individually with players and employees, including manager Frank Robinson. The group is still

completing the financial details of its purchase, so it can't begin implementing any changes until the sale is closed. (AP)

Tigers Finish Comeback, Stay Hot Against the Royals

Ivan Rodriguez drove in five runs in the final two innings and the Detroit Tigers rallied from a sixrun deficit to beat Kansas City 13-8 Thursday, handing the Royals their 13th straight loss. Detroit scored eight runs in the final two innings, completing the sweep. Thames also hit a two-run homer for the Tigers, who have won 13 of their last 14 games. (AP)

Third Straight Win for Nats

Vidro homers, Armas picks up fifth straight win, 8-5 over Astros

NATIONALS | Jose Vidro hit a threerun homer and the Washington Nationals beat Houston 8-5 Thursday despite seven stolen bases by the Astros.

Tony Armas won his fifth straight decision, Nick Johnson broke an 0-for-16 slump, leadoff hitter Alfonso Soriano scored three runs, and rookie Ryan Zimmerman had three RBIs. Except for the fact that they almost ran out of catchers, everything seemed right for a Nationals team that has won five of six, including back-to-back series against Baltimore and Houston, and is playing by far its best baseball of the season.

Armas (5-2) had an adventure nearly every inning, but he was saved twice by Zimmerman. The third baseman ranged to his left to start a double play that ended a bases-loaded threat in the first and stabbed Preston Wilson's liner down the line to save a run in the fifth.

Armas, who was 0-2 in mid-April, allowed four runs and a sea-



Nick Johnson slides into home in the first inning. The Nationals scored three in the first and beat the Astros 8-5 at home.

son-high nine hits in 51-3 innings. He was replaced by Saul Rivera, who threw four straight balls in his major league debut before getting out of a second-and-third, one-out jam by striking out Brad Ausmus and getting Jason Lane to fly out to center.

Jon Rauch then pitched a dicey seventh, Gary Majewski pitched a scoreless eighth, and Chad Cordero pitched the ninth for his seventh

Andy Pettitte (3-6), struggling for the second straight start, allowed three runs in the first, three in the second and one in the third before departing in his shortest outing of the season. One significant glitch for the Nationals was Jose Guillen's tight hamstring, which limited him to two innings. Guillen recently missed five games with a hamstring injury. Joseph white (AP)

The Unforgettable Nomar

Garciaparra faded from the limelight, but he's lighting it up in L.A.

NATIONALS | And starting at first base for the Los Angeles Dodgers ... Mia Hamm's husband.

OK, that's a bit much. But Nomar Garciaparra, once arguably the game's best shortstop, had drifted a bit from the public consciousness. Injuries have kept him from playing a full season since 2003 and a trade to the Chicago Cubs kept him out of the East Coast spotlight. But just so we don't forget who we're talking about, let's check the credentials.

A career .320 hitter entering this season. Former rookie of the year. Five-time All-Star. And the last player to win back-to-back batting titles. Yeah, that Nomar



Nomar Garciaparra made a position switch (to first base) and a city switch (to L.A.).

Garciaparra. He's back.

Far from Boston and far from his natural position, Garciaparra once again is tearing up the league. After

starting the season on the disabled list, the California native is leading the National League with a .375 batting average through Wednesday.

Signing a one-year contract with the Dodgers seemed a peculiar move for a player of his pedigree. Los Angeles already had a Gold Glove shortstop in Cesar Izturis and had inked former Braves shortstop Rafael Furcal to a deal two weeks earlier.

'We knew we needed another power bat and that Nomar could make that transition [to first base]." Dodgers assistant general manager Kim Ng said.

A series of meetings between the Dodgers' management, Garciaparra and his agent convinced him to make the transition. So far Garciaparra is making himself and the Dodgers look brilliant.

He didn't make his first error as a first baseman until Wednesday and already has two game-winning, bottom-of-the-ninth base hits under his belt.

"He's worked really hard to come back," Ng said. "He seems like a new guy." DEREK TURNER

Weekend Sports

For a Change, Nowak Stays Flexible

Constant shuffling of lineups keeps United players on their toes

UNITED | Upon departure from Columbus after last weekend's 1-1 tie, D.C. United had employed seven different starting lineups in eight games and had used 16 starters this season, the second most in MLS.

So much for the importance of continuity — United is 4-1-3 and in first place heading into Saturday's match at Kansas City, where it's anyone's guess who coach Peter Nowak will send onto the field.

"I think it's a little bit different, definitely," said Josh Gros, who is one of four D.C. field players to have started every game but has played both midfield and defense so far.

If anything, Nowak often appeared somewhat inflexible in 2005, sticking with the same for-



Josh Gros, left, is one of four United players who has played every game this year.

mation and appearing reluctant to change tactics or lineups.

Perhaps more comfortable and confident in his third year at the helm or perhaps wary of the lessons learned by last seson's failures, Nowak has changed course this year. Ben Olsen's departure to the World Cup, and minor injuries to Brandon Prideaux, Clyde Simms,

Santino Quaranta and others have been a factor, but Nowak has trusted his depth and has shown a bit more creativity on game day.

He has used differing numbers of defenders, midfielders and forwards, found ways to put complementary players together, solidified a role for Freddy Adu and asked several players — like Gros, Alecko Eskandarian, Lucio Filomeno and Bryan Namoff — to try different positions.

Gros said that rather than confuse the team, Nowak's tinkering has kept it on its toes.

"I think it's a good thing that everybody, every week, their job is on the line, and you never know who's going to start. That puts everybody in an environment where they have to work," Gros said. "So far Peter's had some success with changing up our formation and lineup, and we're still getting the wins we need." BRIAN STRAUS

Gretzky's Wife, Phoenix Coach Might Sue N.J.

NHL | Wayne Gretzky's wife and a Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach might sue New Jersey for \$50 million each, contending their reputations were damaged after state officials leaked information from wiretaps in a case involving a multimillion-dollar sports betting ring.

In two separate notices — often a precursor to a lawsuit — the attorneys named the New Jersey Department of Law and the State Police for allegedly leaking information to the media about recorded conversations. The notices were filed May 8.

Gretzky and his wife, Janet Jones, were linked to the ring allegedly run by Coyotes assistant Rick Tocchet, a former NHL player and close friend of Gretzky, the Coyotes' head coach. Jones is alleged to have placed large bets through Tocchet. (AP)

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Henrik Tallinder, right, will miss the rest of the playoffs with a broken left arm.

Tallinder Will Miss Playoffs

Broken arm sidelines Buffalo defenseman for remainer of season

NHL PLAYOFFS | Sabres defenseman Henrik Tallinder has a broken left arm and will miss the rest of the playoffs.

Coach Lindy Ruff announced the news following practice Thursday, a day after Tallinder was hurt in Buffalo's 4-3 win over Carolina in Game 3 of their Eastern Conference final series.

The Sabres lead the Hurricanes 2-1 in the series that resumes at Buffalo on Friday.

"You feel terrible for Henrik. He's played tremendous but now he won't be part of the ride," Ruff said.

Tallinder was hurt with about 6 minutes left during what Ruff described as an innocent collision in Buffalo's zone.

Tallinder has been one of Buffalo's steadiest defenseman. He has two goals and six assists in 14 playoff games. He and defensive partner Toni Lydman also lead all players with a plus-14 plus-minus ranking.

The Sabres are already down two defensemen: Teppo Numminen, who's listed day to day with a groin strain, and Dmitri Kalinin (left ankle). Buffalo is also playing without playmaking center Tim Connolly, who's missed six games with a possible concussion. JOHN WAWROW (AP)

Synthetic Tracks Take Off

Barbaro's ankle injury at Preakness renews debate over Polytrack

HORSE RACING | Horses can take a misstep and break an ankle on any racetrack. The injury to Barbaro, however, has renewed debate over whether such an injury would happen less often on a surface other than dirt.

European-designed Polytrack — a synthetic mixture of wax-coated polypropylene fibers, recycled rubber and fine sand — was a hot topic in horse racing circles even before the Kentucky Derby winner broke down in the Preakness. Several tracks in England have used it for years, and it's starting to catch on in the United States.

In the weeks leading to the Kentucky Derby, trainer Michael

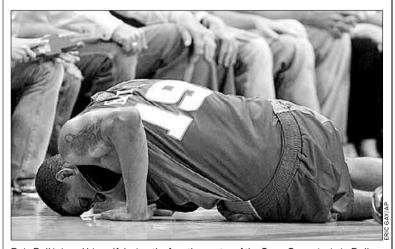


Barbaro's ankle injury at the Preakness has renewed debate over synthetic tracks.

Matz kept Barbaro at Keeneland, partly because of its Polytrack practice course. There are two primary advantages: easy drainage, allowing for races in practically any weather condition, and safety because of a more even composition across the track. "If I had a horse that was worth a lot of money, I'd be more comfortable with a horse at a Polytrack than I would on a dirt track," said Michael Spirito, veterinarian at the Hagyard-Davidson-McGee hospital in Lexington.

"Just as other sports have progressed, as science has led us to new and safer surfaces in other sports, we think this is a newer and safer surface for our sport," Keeneland president and chief executive Nick Nicholson.

Besides the cost — estimated at more than \$6 million to make the switch from dirt — tradition has been a major impediment. The classic American races have always been run on dirt. Secretariat's record Derby run happened on dirt, so some argue a switch to Polytrack would invalidate that and other marks. Jeffrey MCMURRAY (AP)



 $Raja\,Bell\,injured\,his\,calf\,during\,the\,fourth\,quarter\,of\,the\,Suns\,Game\,1\,win\,in\,Dallas.$

Bell Is Out for Game 2

Phoenix guard injured calf in fourth quarter of Game 1 win in Dallas

NBA PLAYOFFS | Phoenix Suns guard Raja Bell will miss Game 2 of the Western Conference finals against the Dallas Mavericks because of a left calf injury sustained midway through the fourth quarter of the opener.

Bell said he felt something pop in his leg, dropping him to the court with 5:27 left in the fourth quarter. He was helped off the court and later felt it stiffen. The team opted not to take an MRI because it wouldn't change how he was treated, coach Mike D'Antoni said.

"I don't know how bad it is," D'Antoni said. "It's pretty sore. There's no way he can do it tomorrow. After that, it's day-to-day and we'll have to see."

D'Antoni said Leandro Barbosa will start in Bell's place.

"I don't see myself as a guy the team can't live without," Bell said.

Jaime aron (AP)



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BODY SHOP MANAGER

Lindsay Ford of Wheaton has a rare opportunity to join the area's premier auto group. Make this you last Job! Are you are number 2 man waiting for the right chance. Great benefits, great 401K, great facility & a great company. For a confidential interview, please call Paul Boots, 301-949-4060 or email: pboots232@aol.com

Automotive Mechanic & Expr'd Helper— Good work environ. Salary or commiss. 703-799-7320.

Safford Dodge of Springfield has immediate position open for Certified Chrysler Tech, Used Car Tech, Front End Tech & Apprentice Techs. Please reply to Jeff East at 703-866-1716.

Barber

** DC Licensed **

Barbers—FT/PT. Arlington, VA.
Call 571-276-0357

Beauticians & Other Professionals Free parking. Call 301-762-5221

BEAUTY Upscale Bethesda Salon, Chairs available 6/1/06

BARBERS, HAIRSTYLISTS & MANICURISTS
W/lic., exper. & following, Commission or rental

w/lic., exper. & following. Commission or rental booth. Call 202-347-6515 or 202-841-0952 ask for Bathsheba or Carl

Come join our fabulous new Salon and Spa Team at the incredible new Collection Shopping Center in Chevy Chase, MD, Our 10,000 square foot facility is immediately above the Louis Vuitton and Jimmy Choo stores

5 Nail Technicians Needed but feel free to ask about other opportunities Commissions between 50% and 60%. Call (305) 206-2971, ask for Elan

BEAUTY — Lic. Hairstylist. Up to 70% Commission. Call Debbie at 301-735-0002.

Beauty

MANICURIST/HAIR STYLIST/ CHAIR RENTAL AVAILABLE

BEAUTY/NAIL TECHNICIAN BEAUTY/NAIL TECHNICIAN

Exper'd, Needed imed for very busy upscale salon,
Acrylic a must, Excellent pay. Call 202-365-5445

Beauty Salon— Dessange Paris seeks NAIL
TECHNICIAN, F/T. MD lic. Commission or salary.
CALL 301-913-9373 or email

dessange@verizon.net

Bookkeeper/Accountant

Medium to Large specialty contractor seeking an experienced Full Charge Bookkeeper. Must be proficient in QuickBooks & intermediate level Excel skills required. Responsibilities include: AP/AR, Payroll, G/L, reconciling accounts, setting up files & exporting data into EXCEL/QBs. Detail oriented, highly organized. College degree, construction background preferrd. P/T+F/T available. Email: dmiller@cochranandmann.com

Arch. millwork co., Rockille.
1 yr exp reg(d. 301-230-2500

CARPENTER—FT for MD co. Min. 5yrs exp. Tools & transp. a must. Call 301-460-2300

CARPENTER

Insurance registration.

Insurance restoration co. in need of carpenters. On call duty req'd. Must have valid driver's lic., own tools, and trans. Call Jack 301-336-8600.

Childcare

DIRECTOR—Childcare Center in Alexandria. Early Childhood Education & exp. req'd. Fax your resume to: 703-370-7788. For an interview call: 703 671 7382 & ask for Jeanette.

Cleaning—Co. needs cleaners. Must have maid service business or hotel exper. M-F 301-350-7000

JOBS

CONSTRUCTION

Crane Operator Conventional & hydraulic. Min 5 yrs exp., top pay. Skyline, 703-369-0468.

Construction

Community Coordinator for National Homebuilder

Duties include Scheduling Settlements, typing letters, copying files, reviewing HUD's, data entry ideal candidate will be detailed orientated accurate, organized, and have the ability to multi-task. Some overtime required. Homebuilding experience preferred. Contact 703-668-1550.

Construction

Construction
Glazing contractor needs 1 Exp'd Mech, 2 Jr. Mech &
1 Helper. Exper. w/thermal sys. CALL Charlie:
240-346-3479.

CONSTRUCTION **Heavy Equipment Operator**

Needed for busy excavating co. Must be exp'd with loaders & dozers. Top pay & benefits avail. Signing Bonus. Call 410-451-7445

Purchasing Assistant for National Homebuilder

Duties include Administrative support of Purchasing Dept, data entry of contracts, GE appliance orders, maintain master subcontractor agreements, general administrative duties (typing, filing, faxing, copying, mailing, etc.) Ideal candidate will be analytical, process driven, deadline oriented, possess ability to communicate w/multiple departments and multi-task. Homebuilding experience preferred. Must be proficient in Microsoft Excel, Access, & Word. Proficient in AS400 preferred. Contact: 703-668-1550.

CONSTRUCTION

Receptionist/Cerk

Knowledge of MS Office. Salary commensurate w/ experience. Located in Bladensburg, MD. Email resumes to: dulanto@jggarcete.com

CUSTODIAL

3 FT Porter/Custodians. High-rise condo, N. Bethesda. Shifts avail. Mon-Fri, Wed-Sat, Sun-Wed. Benes. Call 301-493-9200.

CUSTOMER SERVICE— Work at National Airport! 100+ Immediate Openings! Reservation Agents/ Customer Service/ Drivers. P/T,F/T! Pay up to \$10/hr. Must have clean bkgd and MVR. CALL Stryden at 703-774-3092 to set up an anoth today.

CUSTOMER SERVICE—FT/PT, for busy natural health care center. Mon-Sat, some positions until 7pm. Great benefits, great teamwork, hourly pay. Must apply in person: 4609-D Pinecrest Office Park Dr., Alexandria, VA 22312, 703-354-7336. Several positions or with the control of the ions available - act now!

DANCERS— Wanted for Gentleman's Club (PG County). \$300-\$500/night. No exp. needed. 240-286-3660 or 301-568-8500

Data Entry/Mail Room/Recept. — MAP a Path lab, F/T btwn 9a-5p. Sterling, Va. FAX resume to: 703-404-1131.

Domino's Pizza is now hiring drivers. Must have your own car & insurance. \$10 - 15/hr.

Minnesota Ave 301 568-8883 301 568-4000 301 333-5900 Silver Hill Rd Addison Rd Ask for Manager in charge.

DELIVERY DRIVER

Must have own car for daily delivery route Mon-Fri, DC & PG Co. \$12-\$14 per hr. Call 703-385-4488

JOBS

DENTAL ASST and RECEPT

Cosmetic & Family Dentistry in Herndon seeks bilingual English/Spanish Dental Asst. and Recept. with exper. for our new office. CALL to set up an interview, 703-698-5400

DENTAL RECEPT & ASST

Dental office seeking a Receptionist and Assistant. Fax resume: 202-363-1536.

Needed FT/PT for office in Centreville. Only those with experience need to apply to the position. Call 703-818-1500 or fax at 703-502-9580.

DENTISTS NEEDED

DENTISTS NEEDED

FT/ PT position for general dentist in Baltimore,
Jessup, Hagerstown & Cumberland. Correctional
institutions with mostly daytime hours. Benefits
inclusive of leave, health & retirement.
Pre-employment screening & criminal
background check will be required. Interested
parties should fax resume to: 410-664-2560 or
email: msmc1981@comcast.net.

DISPATCHER/OPERATIONS

When was the last time you enjoyed your work? Progressive. Stable. Growth. Arlington company in search of positive, sharp teammate, able to work independently. Excellent salary & benefits. Fax 703-525-1637 Michael or email: employment@fedlock.com

DRIVER — Bring your own car, pickup truck or van. Mid-Atlantic deliveries 24/7. Paid weekly. Call 301-495-0000.

Bus Driver

Wanted at the Potomac Job Corps Center for local and distant trips. Full and Part Time positions This position is in our Recreation Department. In addition to driving, this position sets up, breaks down, and participates in Recreational Activities. Drives 20%. Must possess a valid CDL with a Passenger Endorsement. Clean driving record required. Must enjoy working with Youth and enjoy having fun! Evenings and weekends, full time. Great pay, benefits, and working environment! To apply fax resume and letter of interest to Chad Zehner at: (202) 279-3438 or email Potomac.HR@jobcorps.org by COB 5/26/06. Pay is approximately \$12.50 per hour. EEO/V/M/D

DRIVER

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED
Swimming pool Co. located in Fairfax, VA and Silver
Spring, MD is hiring for the 2006 Summer season.
We have FT and PT seasonal positions available
starting now. These positions are daytime Mon-Sat.
Must have a Class B CDL w/tanker, HAZMAT, and
Airbreak endorsements, to deliver swimming pool
chemicals and supplies out of either location. We
have several positions available. Call Robert
1-800-992-6286

DRIVERS NEEDED for floral delivery event setup & breakdown. Must know Metro area. FT, overtime, great pay & benefits. 301-565-0020.

DRIVERS

DRIVERS

To collect gas station prices in the following counties: Prince Georges, Montgomery, Loudoun, Arlington, Fairfax & Prince William. Prices collected between 6-10am Mon-Sat. \$40-580 per day for 2-4 hours of work. Must be online. Apply at

www.snurf.com/gasapp

DRIVERS — We need experienced tow drivers & Dispatchers. Please call 703-536-0370.

DRYCLEANER—Shirt Laundry, all around. Exper req'd. 826 Upshur St, NW. Call 202-723-5742

ELECTRICIANS & FIRE ALARM TECHNICIANS

Min. 4 yrs. exper. needed. Excellent wages & benefit pkgs. Long-term projects with career opportunities. FAX resumes to: 301-779-1279; or CALL: 301-277-8370.

Classifieds

JOBS

Engineer
Chief Engineer—Premier 550,000 sq ft office building, new Trane controls and equipment.
Fax resumes to 202-638-0834 or email Irunyan@douglasdev.cor

ENGINEER

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. a top-ranked national consulting firm providing engineering, planning, and environmental services to a wide range of clients is experiencing continued growth throughout our 55 offices.

Our Northern VA office is currently seeking a Our Northern VA office is currently seeking a roadway/highway designer with 6-10 years experience and 2-3 yrs project mgmnt experience. Professional Registration in Virginia with experience in multi-discipline areas such as structures (bridges, culverts, retaining walls, etc.), drainage, environmental, transportation planning, traffic engineering, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), roadway geometric software in roadway design, including drainage design, utility layout, plans production, and preliminary report writing is preferred. Candidates must possess solid technical experience and strong communication skills.

Kimley-Horn offers an excellent compensation & benefits package including ownership potential, incentive based bonuses, profit sharing, & 401(k) contributions. For consideration, please apply online in the Careers/Contact website at: **www.kimley-horn.com**. Please use reference code KMAG.

ENVIRONMENTAL SALES

No. VA based environmental waste disposal co. has immed. opening for exp. sales professional w/2-3 yrs+ exp. req. Hazardous & non-hazardous waste disposal. For immed. consideration, please fax resume to 703-502-1796. EOE

BUSINESS ANALYST

needed for short-term Fed contract. Review & analyze bus. apps for compliance and eligibility. B.A. & 3 yrs exp. \$19.00 per hr. Send resume to: debbie@djaandassociates.com

Financial Services
Excellent opprty in the financial industry. FT/PT, no exp necessary will train. Call 301-333-5868
FITNESS TRAINERS WANTED

Must be certified. For group sessions. CALL Jane, 202-547-7906.

WeekendPass performs, Thursday

GRAPHIC ARTIST

needed for 50 page annual report. 5 yrs exper working w/InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator for DoD or Advanced Tech projects. Send resume, salary, and relevant samples to Debbie@djaandassociates.net

GRAPHICS PERSON

Mac & PC exper. req'd. Able to multi-task. Must know CS2, Quark, Pagemaker, Word & Publisher. Cust. Svc. oriented. Busy print shop on Kent Island. FT/Benefits. CALL: 301-404-4666.

HOME HEALTH AID

Assisted living in Hyattsv., near metro. PT Wknd, 2-6 patients. Call 301-333-6254

HOUSEKEEPER—PT in Alex., help with Asian cook-

ing & laundry. Call 703-867-3212

A/C EQUIPMENT MECHANIC

The National Gallery of Art has multiple vacancies for A/C Equipment Mechanics, responsible for operating, maintaining, and repairing mechanical systems, air handlers, pumps, compressors, etc. Secure government job, great benefits. Starting wages \$45,000. Call Mr. John Bixler, 202-842-6350 for more information. U.S. citizenship is required. For specific application information and instructions go to http://jobsearch.usajobs. opm.gov/a9nga.asp. The vacancy announcement number is #06-01

HVAC - A top quality company needs: Commercial/Residential Service Techs/Install • Signing bonus to \$2k • Comms&tool bonus • HIth ins, vac/sick Iv • 125 plan,401k w/match • Advanced technical training Call Northstar at 703 541-1006

HYGENIST—Exceptional hygenist wanted for growing & friendly practice in upscale DC nbd. Top sal offered. Please fax resume to: 301-528-7855 INSURANCE — D.C. State Farm agent seeks exp'd Staff. Top salary. Fax resume to: 202-659-3675.

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Every Thursday in Express

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\$9.00+ Per Hour Join teams taking inventory for local/national retail

ers Part-time and seasonal positions now available! College Students encouraged

College Students encouraged to apply!
Great flexibility - You chose your availability No Experience Necessary.
We Train You!
Offices located throughout the VA/MD region
Must be 18 or older and have reliable transportation
Advancement Opportunities
Available.
Call now for an appointment!
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JANITORIAL
Experience pref but will train, Metro area.
Call 301-384-0558 or 1-866-244-4500
KITCHEN DESIGNER
CAD. Exper'd only. No weekends. Benefits. Severna Park, MD. 410-647-2336.
LABORERS PT & FT — Looking for exper Handymen, Pressure washers, & Laborers. 6a-3p & 2p-10p-shifts. Clean Driving recd, bkgrnd chk. Drug test req'd. Call 301-509-8484
LABORERS/WAREHOUSE/TRUCK HELPERS
37 immed openings for Laborers/ Warehouse/ Truck

37 immed openings for Laborers/ Warehouse/ Truck Helpers on day and night shifts. Positions located in DC Metro area. Transp a must. Apply in person Mon-Wed., 10am sharp, at Crosby Corporation, 835 Bonifant St., Silver Spring, MD.

Legal Assistant/Paralegal-Bilingual

Silver Spring law firm looking for Bilingual-Span-ish/English Legal Asst./Paralegal. Exp. w/Pl cases pref'd. Sal. & bene. commensurate w/exp. Fax resume to Cindy: 301-589-7343; or Email to: luizlawc@aol.com

LOCKSMITH

FedLock seeks ENTRY LEVEL (will train) & EXPER'D TECHS. Installation/service, access control, hardware, no auto, no on-call. Great oppty for personal/professional growth, exc salary/benes. Fax 703-525-1637 Attn Michael

MAINTENANCE TECH

Exper, HVAC Lic req'd.
Fax resume to Eunice Moore at 202-388-8737

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
Seeking Maintennce Technician experienced in all aspects of maintenance for 300-unit garden-style apartments in Adelphi, MD. Must be able to pass background investigation. EOE. Please email resume to heritageparkapts@aol.com or fax resume to 301-422-6968 or call 301-439-4464.



Management

Childtime Learning Center is looking for an energetic & motivated Management candidate for our Largo location. Must have a B.S. in ECE or related field with 2 yrs mgmt experience preferred. We offer a competitive salary, benefits package that includes 90% childcare discount, medical/dental, 401K, tuition reimbursement and career advancement consortiunities. Eay resumes to ment opportunities. Fax resumes to 757-499-8716 or email to: jmoran@learningcaregroup.com EOE M/F/D/V

Marketing Coordinator for National Homebuilder

Maintain website and backup databases, proficient in Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator, E-Lead Management, creation of Advertisements for publication & print, coordination of Realtor functions, responsible for decor and layout of sales offices, maintain database of company sales & closings, maintain base price log for communities. Contact: 703-668-1550.

Manager, Corporate Alliances New position! Excellent opportunity!

USO, a non profit organization providing programs & services for the military and their families is looking to fill this position to manage the development & execution of corporate marketing alliances & philanthropic relationships established at the USO center/Affiliate level. The Manager will also need to generate sponsorship & foundation revenue for stateside & overseas Centers. The position is located at the Headquarters office in Arlington, VA and reports to the Director, Corporate Alliances.

Responsibilities include: providing guidance for selling & implementing partnership marketing deals; research targeted categories & primary prospects; serve as information resource for corporate alliances activities & inquiries; generate weekly activity reports & analysis; prepare sales materials & presentations; prepare partnership agreements; represent the organization at tradeshows/conferences; other related duties.

Minimum requirements: Bachelor's degree in related field; five or more yrs. progressively responsible sponsorship of nonprofit fundraising exp., project management exp.; excellent written & verbal communication skills; fully competent in MS Office & PP; exp. Wraiser's Edge preferred; ability to travel extensively w/in US & occasionally overseas.

Send resumes to USO; HR dept. at jobs@uso.org or fax to 703-908-6401 for immediate consideration, but no later than 5/26. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. No phone calls please.

For more information on USO, go to www.uso.org

For more information on USO, go to www.uso.org

Marketing—Northern Virginia
Recent coll. grad. Will train.
\$33,000 base plus bonus.

Resume: manager@
commissionexpress.com

MEAT CUTTERS/MANAGER
& FOOD PROFESSIONALS.

Opportunity to work in NoVA, (in the Villages of Upperville & Middleburg). Enjoy a 'reverse commute' from anywhere in the DC Metro area. Immediate openings in USDA meat processing facility (certified organic by Oregon Tilth) restaurant & retained butcher shop. Meat cutters full or P/T are eligible for pay upto \$45K/yr based on exp. & number of hours. Benefits include insurance plan, IRA & vacation. Email: homefarmstores@verizon.net or FAX resume to: \$40-592-7041.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

3 Dermatologists need exp'd Medical Asst. Clinical position, not clerical. Exper. req'd. Must be articulate, personable, extremely reliable & punctual. Salary negotiable. Benefits. Fax resume to: 202-775-1772.

MEDICAL ASST/CNA—For Pediatric practice in Rockville, MD. FT/PT. Exper pref'd. Will to train. Graduates welcome. Fax 301-838-0176.

Medical Receptionist

Medical Receptionist
Laurel, MD Eng/Spanish. Msg/Fax resume: 301-362-0213.

readexpress.com

MENTAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL
Lic/cert. W/Masters. PT, incl sat & some wkdys. Fax
resume 301-218-9514 or email us at

bowiecounseling@msn.com MESSENGER/OFFICE ASST. \$8.50/hr. Apply in person: Mon-Fri, 8a-11a, 1323 R.I. Ave, NW DC

MiCash Inc

A growing financial services company is actively recruiting Financial Sales Consultants to promote its product in Washington DC metropolitan area.

Requirements:

- Requirements.

 Must be bilingual English Spanish

 Minimum of two years sales experience

 Excellent organizational skills and out-going
- Must be a team player
 Must have reliable transportation
 We offer the following

- Competitive salary

 Excellent benefits, such as health and life insurance, IRA, vacation, sick and personal
- leave Incentive bonuses
- Pleasant working environment

Please contact us at 202 338 7474 x 111 or aquinonez@micashcard.com

NANNY—FT Nanny for newborn, 5 days/wk (M-F, 8-6 pm). \$1,200-\$1,500/mo. Woodley Park, near Red-line Metro. Provide references. Start: 06/15/06. Contact: andreernino7@msn.com or 443-540-2381

Non-Profit

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Financial for ReSET, a D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PT Executive Director for ReSET, a D.C.-based non-profit volunteer organization that partners retired Scientists, Engineers & Technicians with elementary school teachers in the classroom to stimulate interest in science. Position requires excellent networking & communication skills as you will actively promote & expand the organization in the areas of recruitment & fundraising. Must have min. of 3 yrs. exper. related to volunteer recruitment and/or program mgmt. Public relations, fundraising & mgmt. exper. preferred. Science background is necessary. Work at home equivalent of 24 hrs/wk. with a salary to start up to \$30K per year. More information at: www.resetonline.org. To apply send cover letter and resume to: ReSET, PO Box 9400, Washington, DC 20016-9400. Application Deadline: 6/15/06

Nurse Practitioners-Medical Spa

Nurse Practitioners-Medical Spa

FT/PT. Leading cosmetic treatment co. seeks friendly, professional NPs for DC & MD offices. Spa setting. Healthy clients. Weekday, eve & weekend shifts - min. 20 hrs/wk. Will train. Send resume to:

jobs@reveal.com OR FAX: 240-209-0676
NURSES

Burned Out?
Health & wellness industry needs you.

Health & wellness industry neeus you.
CALL 703-216-9569.
PAINTER—MD contractor seeks F/T Painter. Min.
Syrs exp. Tools & transp. a must. 301-460-2300
PEDIATRICIAN/NP— FT/PT BC/BE in Bowie + benes. Sal attractive. 301-237-7562
Fax 301-218-0040

PHYSICAL THERAPIST P/T

Licensed in VA for small, flexible PT owned practice. Manual skills req'd. Fax 703-356-7814 or email mcleanrehab@aol.com

Needed P/T for outpatient clinic. Internal / Family/ Ortho. FAX resumes : 202-388-1704. PROP MGT—Leasing agent, Slvr Spg. 2 yrs exper, MRI a plus. Call 301-385-6888 or fax 301-565-8049

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Exp'd Leasing Agent w/ 2yrs, MRI a plus, Sil Sprg prop. pls CALL 301-585-6888 or FAX 301-565-8049.

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is a unique sandwich joint in town. We serve toasty warm sandwiches, hand-dipped shakes, even live music since 1977!

OPENING SOON on the GWU Campus & on Indiana Ave.! JOB FAIRS:

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At: 1900 L Street NW Washington, DC 20036 From: 9-11am and 3-5pm Looking forward to seeing you there!



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GROUP

If you can not attend email dc-jobs@potbelly.com

JOBS

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RESTAURANT

LEASING MANAGER

Full-time position immediately opening! High-rise community - Alexandria, VA Minimum 2 years leasing experience required Monday - Friday with some week-ends Excellent opportunity for qualified individual

Please fax resume to (703) 567-4909 By Friday, May 26, 2006

(No telephone calls please) Thank you!

EOE

play su do ku

Opening in June 2006

RECEPTIONIST



Serving custom dry aged Kansas City Steaks and fresh Atlantic Lobster, Jimmy's on K Street is bound to be the premier gathering spot on K Street. Be a part of our opening team as we embark on a new tradition in fine

Please apply in person Monday through Friday between 9am and 5pm at our temporary office located at:

1700 K Street, N.W. Suite B-1 (Basement Level)

Interviews will be conducted for the following positions: Maitre D', Servers, Cocktail Servers, Bus Staff, and all Back of House positions.

years upscale dining experience preferred. Excellent full time benefit package including medical/dental insurance, 401k and vacation after one

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Apartment Leasing Agents WANTED

ENGLISH/SPANISH Speaking Applicants a Plus

No prior apartment leasing experience required • Motivated & persistent • Great phone & service skills • E-mail & Internet efficient

Our 34 MD-VA locations have

multiple positions currently available

and 12,000 apartments waiting to be rented

Guaranteed salary • Excellent commission • Competitive benefits package • Exciting & fast-paced work environment

TO APPLY, call Toll-Free: 1-888-398-1349 Monday-Friday, 9AM-5PM

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Keep a lifelong friend from getting evicted. SHARE manages telefundraising campaigns for many socially progressive organizations - like PBS. Help ensure that the programs you love stay on the air. Get great benefits, \$10-15/hr. on average & a flexible full or part-time schedule.



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REAL ESTATE PROCESSOR

Licensed settlement processor wanted for Greenbelt MD title company. Must be familiar w/ all aspects of real estate closings including title commitments, policies and preparation for closing. Min. 3 yrs exper. & references required. Email resume: titleandlaw@yahoo.com

Realtors Assistant

Eull commission

Property Management
Tax credit certification/administrator — for a tax credit property in the Washington area. Only those with tax credit certification need apply. Please fax resume to 202-561-8054
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Maintenana Technician

Property Management
Maintenance Technician
Must have own tools. Please fax resume to
202-563-1874

202-563-1874

REAL ESTATE - POST- CLOSER

Needed for Greenbelt MD title company. Min 2 yrs exp. closing. Min. 3 yrs exp. Email resume to: titleandlaw@yahoo.com

Receptionst/Front Desk person — for upscale fitness center in Washington, DC, Mon-Fri 1PM-9PM, \$10-12/hour. Fax resume to (202) 347-8765.

A large family practice in the Fair Oaks area is seeking several Recept. for our Front desk, Appt Ctr, and Medical records dept. Applicants should have exceptional customer svc w/a great smile, must be able to get to work on time & are motivated to work hard in a busy environ. Slackers need not apply. Please fax resume to 703-391-1211 Attn: Joyce.

Full commission Call Nisha 571-212-1855 RIDERWOOD

You have Goals. We have Opportunities.

Riderwood, a growing Erickson Community located in Silver Spring, MD, has an exciting opportunity for you! Enjoy a competitive salary, outstanding work environment and superior benefits. We are seeking to fill the following positions

RESTAURANT MANAGER CHEF de CUISINE

No late nights, as our dining rooms close at 7PM, which means you have time to spend with friends and family. Comprehensive benefits package, retirement plan, paid holidays and vacations. To join a winning team, email resume to: ajames@ericksonmail.com or Fax: 301-572-8402.

FOF

www.erickson.com

Erickson[®]

Restaurant

ASSISTANT MANAGER &

BARTENDER
Restaurant in Falls Church VA seeking Assistant Manager & Bartender. Fax resume to: 703-847-1955.

Restaurant

ok — Short order. Apply in person. Exp req'd. 331 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Wash DC 20003

Dunkin Donuts/Subway

Cashier & Sandwich Maker, all shifts, good salary, nice location. Exp. pref'd. CALL 202-526-3677 or Come to 2420 New York Ave, NE.

Come to 2420 New York Ave, NE. **Restaurant**The City Tavern Club, a private dining club located in the heart of Georgetown has an immediate opening for a **General Manager**. The General Manager is responsible for all Club food and beverage operations, administration and facility maintenance. E-mail andronicos@aol.com for more information. Salary: Base salary in the \$70's with incentives to go higher hased on membership and cost higher based on membership and cost

containment. RESTAURANT

Tantallon Country Club is presently seeking a qualified Banquet Captain, Bar Manager, Servers & Bartenders. Call 301-292-1100 FNB Dept. or fax resumes to 301-292-2943.

RESTAURANT

PREP CHEES

PREP CHEFS

No. Va. catering co. seeks qualified FT Prep Chefs to show off their culinary skills. Ideal candidates should be familiar with the preparation of all types of food and min 3 yrs exp in on-site catering enviornment. Must be available to work flexible schedule. Excellent wages & benefits. Call 703-769-4693, Fax resume to: 703-797-8632 or email: kitchen@designcuisine.com.EOE.

RESTAURANT MANAGERS For growing rest. Metro area. \$38-\$85K. 800-351-7557 or FAX 800-208-0633 dss907@aol.com

KITCHEN MANAGER/COOKS/ KITCHEN HELP

Large seafood restaurant in Southern MD. Benefits & salary negotiable. Please CALL 301-752-8018. Restaurant HOSTS, HOSTESSES, CASHIERS & DINING & SUSHI SERVERS, BARTENDER

Training provided FT & PT Avail. Ins, vacation & sick leave pay. Must be able to communicate W/customers. Apply in person to Benilana Restaurant, 7935 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda MD 20814. Call 301

RESTAURANT

Experienced cook/waiter wanted for well est. Rest Must have fine dining exper. & able to work all shifts Fax resume to 202-625-0553

EXPERIENCED SERVERS \$6-\$7 PER HOUR PLUS TIPS

THE SPIRIT OF WASHINGTON IS IN THE PROCESS OF HIRING
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2BD/2BA + Sit Rm, 4 yr old Condo, Upgrd kit, balc,
Jacuzzi, elevator, undgrd pkg.
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HOUSES FOR SALE

#1 BEST BUY FAIRFAX—\$75K Prime lot. Mason Neck Area. Gunston Manor. 12,000 SF, Soil Test to be done by purchaser. MLS #FX5541664. David Smith, Avery-Hess Realtors 540-273-0129; 540-373-9300 Avery-Hess Realtors 540-2/3-0127, 040-5/3 2002
27th & R st SE—4BR 2.5BA starting at \$299,900.
Home Buyers Realty 202-526-2005 Ernest 202-438-7611
\$749,900

\$749,900 Stunning 6 BR, 4 FBA brick home on ½ acre wooded fenced lot. Open fir plans, 3 frpls, vaulted ceilings, fam rm w/wet bar, 2 decks, hot tub, walk-out lower level. Ed, Re/Max Metro. 703-927-9537

level. Ed, Re/Max Metro. 703-927-9537

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Immaculate 4-level garage townhome. 3 bedrooms, 2-5 baths with all of the finishing touches. Easy DC commute with Metro rail within walking distance. Call for a private tour.

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Peverill Dr, L Picot, immed. R on Eaton Pl. Call Darrell
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ANACOSTIA \$299,000 1643 U St SE

Completely renovated 4BR/2FBA Colonial with new kitchen, new bathroom, off street parking, large backyard w/deck, hdwd flrs, laundry rm. off ktchn, and CAC to be installed. Call Aaron Hargrove at 202-438-0701 for more details. Realty Executives 2000

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ARL—3-BR 2-BA 3-Ivl SFH, 1-car gar., nr Rt 50 & stores. \$597,000. 4833 1st St. South, Arl, VA 22204. Fairfax Realty, Toni Larios 703-593-2381

ARL N—Brick Duplex. Lge corner lot. 2 units each w/2BR & 18BA + wlkt-up bsmt. Off-st pkg. Nr Ballston/Clarendon. \$749,000. Beth, Arlington Realty 703-944-9706/703-836-4610

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BETHESDA-Whitman/Pyle \$699,000
Renovated Cape, 4 BR, 3 BA, hdwd firs, new kit, big lot. FSBO. Agents welcome. 6115 Temple St. (out Bradley, R on Valley, R on Temple) 301-564-0235

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2262 SF, 4BR, 2BA Cape. Large addition w/frpl.
Custom shelving & cabinets.
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MAZDA '00 626 ES—Auto, lthr, snrf, 103K, \$4400. 301-466-5987, 301-598-9222

MAZDA '97 PROTEGE—Red. Auto. 169K. \$945/obo. Good condition. Great 2nd car. MUST SELL! 240-426-8121

MERCURY '99 VILLAGER—Van-Sport, 81k miles w/ MD inspection \$6,200/0BO 301-919-2811

NISSAN—'02 Quest, very clean, video, running

MERCURY '99 VILLAGER—Van-Sport, 81k miles w/ MD inspection \$6,200/OBO 301-919-2811

NISSAN—'02 Quest, very clean, video, running boards, am/fm/CD/cass., 21,000 mi., \$15,000/best offer. Call 301-779-2704

NISSAN '94 Pathfinder SE—auto, clean in/out, runs good, sunrf, ac/heat, all pwr, \$1950/OBO 240-593-2638

NISSAN '93 MAXIMA—4 Dr, auto, all power, AC, CD player, perfect condition. MD inspected \$2250, 301-505-7034

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OLDS '92 CUTLASS SIERRA—\$995/OBO. Light blue. Auto. Excellent condition. 162K. Pwr everything! MUST SELL! 240-426-8121
TOYOTA '05 Prius—Blue, All Options: GPS Nav, Prem. Sound, Side Air Bags, Xtra Cln-Low Miles, \$25750 Moving Overseas 703-244-2922
TRAVEL TRAILER—25 ft., '01 Sunline Advancer 25-R Lite tag along. Exc. cond. Very clean unit. Separate BR w/qn bed, pull-out sofa, full galley, full wlk-thru BA, many extras. Must sell. \$7995. 540-347-7459

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capable, Sturdy, extra salis, \$2,750 with 15 florse power. Honda, 302-541-4339 WELLCRAFT '93 ECLIPSE 232—Bowrider w/cuddy cabin & toilet. Seats 10. Incl EZ loader trailer, excel cond. \$14,500. 703-266-4398

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TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Janet gains, loses, weight for role | 42

Blog Bits: Hello from a Cannes yacht party | 40

Blog Log: Clay Aiken's disturbing haircut | **40**

Living

Indian apartment complexes are ruling out carnivores

Never mind pets, smokers or loud music at 2 a.m. House hunters in Bombay increasingly are being asked: "Do you eat meat?"

If yes, the deal is off.

As this city of 16 million becomes the cosmopolitan main nerve of a booming Indian economy, real estate is increasingly intersecting with cuisine. More middle-class Indians are moving in, more of them are vegetarian, and the law is on their side.

"Some people are very strict. They won't sell to a nonvegetarian even if he offers a higher price than a vegetarian," said real estate broker Norbert Pinto.

Vegetarianism is a centuries-old custom among Hindus, Jains and others in India. The government reckons India has some 220 million vegetarians, more than anywhere else in the world.

"Veg or non-veg?" is heard constantly in restaurants, at dinner parties and on airlines. And the question has long been an unwritten part of the interrogation house hunters must submit to.

But it's becoming more open, and the effects more noticeable, all the more so in Bombay, which attracts immigrants from Gujarat and Rajasthan, strongly vegetarian states, as well as followers of the Jain religion.

In constitutionally secular India, there's no bar to forming a housing society and making an apartment block exclusively Catholic or Muslim, Hindu or Zoroastrian.

Vegetarians say they too need segregation.

"I live in a cosmopolitan society," said Jayantilal Jain, trustee of a charity group. "But vegetarians





WELCOME, VEGHEADS: At left, a woman walks by an all-vegetarian Pizza Hut in Bombay. Right, Bollywood actress Malaika Arora poses with a vegetarian pizza.

should be given the right to admit who they want."

Rejected home-seekers have mounted a slew of court challenges, but last year India's highest tribunal ruled the practice legal.

"It's just not fair. It's a monopoly by vegetarians," said Kiran Talwar, 49, a prosthetics engineer who has seen vegetarianism take over restaurants and groceries all over his childhood neighborhood on posh Nepeansea Road.

"If you step out to eat, there's nothing for miles because everything around is veggie," he said.

Suburban supermarkets have been known to dump their nonveg foods overnight because of complaints from shoppers.

"We cleared our shelves of tuna tins and frozen chicken. We don't keep any nonvegetarian items now,"

said Neelam Ahuja, owner of the K-value supermarket. "Many customers don't like non-veg, so we stopped stocking it."

K-value took the action even though it's in a heavily Christian neighborhood, and Christians in India aren't known to have particularly many vegetarians among

While Indians are accustomed to housing societies demarcated by religion, separation by diet has meat-eaters worried. Bombay likes to think of itself as a city wide open to the world, and some worry that the vegetarian tide goes against that trend.

Vikramaditya Ugra, a Bombay banker in search of an apartment, said vegetarian colonies were fine in neighboring Guiarat, a state dominated by vegetarians. "That's in tune with local sensitivity," he said.

"But to impose this restriction is not right in a cosmopolitan city."

Ravi Bhandari, a 68-year-old retired businessman, said he tried to lease his apartment to an Indian oil company but the housing society bluntly nixed the deal.

"They said the first tenant is vegetarian, but who knows who will replace him?" said Bhandari, himself a vegetarian who confesses that he had a soft spot for chicken in his youth. "I respect their concerns so I didn't lease my flat." RAMOLA TALWAR BADAM (AP)



from readexpress.com

Awaiting a Coffee Shop

GALLERY PLACE | With all the new condos in the GALLERY PLACE/PENN QUARTER/CHINATOWN area, throngs of new residents have been moving in, boosting the population, nightlife and businesses. But certain amenities are still elusive, making the blog **GPLIVING.BLOGSPOT.COM** and its readers a bit impatient.

When Balducci's pulled out of opening a specialty grocery store in the neighborhood, hearts were broken and feelings were hurt. But through the blog, a campaign has formed to attract a new high-end grocer. The blog has empowered the neighborhood, and when someone wants an answer about something in their community, the bloggers try to get to the bottom of it.

Earlier this week, they asked the long-awaited SHIMBA HILLS COFFEE when its coffee shop was going to in the Verizon Center. The answer: in two weeks, "if everything goes to plan," the blog reports. Now you know. Michael Grass (express)

CONSPIRACIES | It was just too eerie that an electrical outage on AMTRAK's Northeast Corridor and the guilty verdict for Enron's KENNETH LAY and JEFFREY SKILLING both occurred vesterday, according to blogger KSTREE TBLUES.BLOGSPOT.COM: "[B]ut don't you think it's a little strange that a major rail network in the most populous region of the country goes down because of a power failure the same day that two men from Enron,



Are Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling to blame for yesterday's Amtrak woes?

a company that created power failures in California, were sent up the river? I'm just savin'." Interesting theory. M.G.

CANNES DO | Express' ARION BERGER sent us a dispatch from the **CANNES** FILM FESTIVAL, this time from a vacht party peppered with celebrities: "A yacht party is like a tailgate party for swells where you don't know anyone. Slim girls proffer trays of asparagus on toast, some minced-shrimp thingie and sparklingly fresh, Texas-big oysters. A bunch of glowering, slickhaired guys in suits uncomfortably occupy all the chairs in the sun -'The poop deck's mobbed up,' someone cracks — and everyone pretends not to be looking at JENA [MALONE] (gorgeous skin) and CHLOE [SEVIGNY] (just the way she looks on camera, only more relaxed). We head to the stern and gaze at the shore. 'Look at those buildings,' sighs someone who foolishly grabbed a bottle of Budweiser Select. 'There are literally thousands of gallons of Leffe out there and I'm holding a Bud."

→ Coming up today

What holiday weekend would be complete without single-tracking on Metrorail? We'll tell you where. And did you know that Alexander Graham Bell invented a form of air conditioning near Dupont Circle?

? Poll Center

TODAY'S QUESTION

Should protesters be barred from military

1. Yes

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

How will D.C.'s housing market fare in coming years?

29% Holding strong

4% Gaining in strength

33% Waning steadily 34% Bubble about to burst

As of 5:45 p.m. Thursday. Not a scientific poll.

CAST YOUR VOTE ON TODAY'S POLL QUES-TION AND SEE YOUR FELLOW READERS VOTES TALLIED BY METRO STATION AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP



'Memorial Day will feature continued warm and dry conditions, with abundant sunshine ... It will be perfect BBQ weather."

CAPITALWEATHER.COM PREVIEWS THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FORECAST, WHICH WILL FEATURE TEMPERATURES RISING INTO THE 80S. BUT BEWARE OF THE "STILL RATHER MUGGY CONDITIONS."

Trouble for Cheney

"I must say that [Special Prosecutor Patrick] Fitzgerald seems quite determined to get to the bottom of this. It is, of course, incredibly important to find out whether or not Cheney had anything to do with leaking Plame's identity. ... [T]he testimony ... could endanger Cheney's position."

FREEANDJUSTICE.BLOGSPOT.COM ON THE POSSIBILITY THAT VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY MAY BE CALLED TO TESTIFY IN THE TRIAL OF HIS FORMER AIDE, SCOOTER LIBBY.

Sweet Justice

"The capper would be seeing those two men do a Jim Bakker and cry like babies as they're taken away."

TAMMYBRUCE.COM ON THE CONVICTION OF ENRON'S KEN LAY AND JEFFREY SKILLING



Run Katie, Run!

"I'm really not sure what Katie is waiting for ... \$25 million only seems like a lot of money when you don't already have \$15 million. For \$15 million, I'd have sex with Tom Cruise. I'm not greedy, I don't need the whole \$40 million."

IDONTLIKEYOUINTHATWAY.COM RELAYS NEWS ABOUT A FINANCIAL AGREEMENT KATIE HOLMES APPARENTLY HAS WITH TOM CRUISE IF SHE LEAVES HIM.



A Bening-Aiken Fusion

'... Annette Bening and curiously milquetoast yet strangely obsession-spawning singer Clay Aiken had become, however unlikely, one in the same. ... Unfortunately for Clay, I'm not sure that going from The Bening to something closer to Green Daymeets-k.d. lang is really a move in the right direction."

GOFUGYOURSELF.COM POKES FUN AT CLAY AIKEN'S NEW LOOK, AS SEEN DURING WEDNESDAY'S SEASON FINALE OF "AMERICAN IDOL."

Live Online

'American Idol'

Washington Post TV columnist LISA DE MORAES was online Thursday to take questions about the American Idol finale. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Don't you think it was funny that they had a two-hour special to announce the winner and the show still ran long? Do you think that it was because Prince decided at the last minute to go on the show?

No. I think it's because the show was live and that's what happens sometimes with live TV. The good news is that Taylor Hicks was announced as the winner at two minutes before 10 p.m. so anyone who TiVo-ed the show will get to see that; what will get cut off will be the final part of him performing his Made For Idol Treacle Tune.

How could there be a bigger high than Prince? PRINCE! When did **American Idol get THAT HIP?**

...When the show started averaging 30 million viewers and performers like Prince who are trying to pitch their new CD start to see the value in doing so in front of that many people.

Is it me, or did Toni Braxton and Mary J. Blige sound terrible on Idol? It almost sounded like there was a mic problem during Toni's song, but what's Mary's excuse for butchering "One"? Seemed like Clay Aiken had a mic problem too.

Funny, Mary J. Blige butchered the same song last week at one of the broadcast network's "upfront" presentations. Could it be that she's just not that good, and that she sounds much better on her CDs, thanks to the miracle of modern technology and her producers?

Ooooooh, the conspiracy theorists are running amok. Isn't this just a case of sour grapes? There would have been people complaining no matter who won.

Honestly, I didn't see much in the way of conspiracy theory babble this season. It was remarkably conspiracy theory-free, compared to earlier editions.

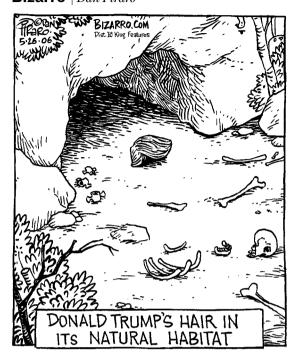
→ Today on Live Online

II A.M.: Washington Post staff writer William Booth will discuss all the latest news from the Cannes Film Festival.

STOP SPEAKING, FABIO. Your lusciously manly voice makes anything we write on your fridge at Thekitchenoflove.com suddenly sound like a passage from a trashy romance novel. Too bad everything else in your kitchen is a plug for I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!

LOOK

Bizarro | Dan Piraro



Cornered | Mike Baldwin



Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan





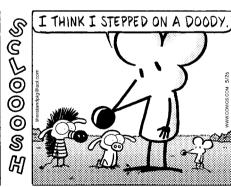




Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



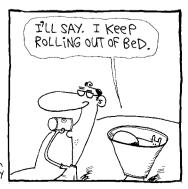




The Duplex | Glenn McCoy







Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You're coming down to the wire, but you're not prepared to finish just yet. You're going to have to take care of a few last-minute details

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Compare your current standing with your remembrance of things past, and you'll realize that you are doing better than you'd thought.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) That which you seek is nearer than ever before — but still, perhaps, just out of reach. Be patient, and don't push yourself beyond your own limits.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is a good day to try something new that others, for some reason, may be fearful of. You mustn't expect success right away, however.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may find yourself in a position that brings out the worst in you, so you'll want to take care that you don't lash out at others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You may have trouble getting in touch with someone who requires information from you. Don't panic; you still have plenty of time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may receive news that has you changing plans suddenly. Slow down; you may be misinterpreting information.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may require a little tutoring of sorts before you can excel at something that is pulling you in a new direction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) It is perfectly sensible to be economical, but there are certain items that demand attention to quality; compromise is no option.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may be asking questions that are more difficult to answer than you had expected. Look within for the truth others don't see.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may win the support of someone who is important in the local community. Even so, you'll want to stay humble — and honest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You'll have to work harder than usual to make sense of certain messages that seem to mean nothing upon first glance. Take time.

Letters

Include MPG in Cars Stories

IN YOUR CARS section, when covering a car like a Honda civic, I have noticed that you will make mention of the miles per gallon. But when reporting on an SUV like the Cadillac Escalade, which was

featured on Wednesday, you fail to mention the MPG. Whether out of concern for the future of the planet or the weight of their wallets, now, more than ever, the American public wants to know how much fuel their cars are burning. In the future, be consistent. Report on the MPG for all cars in your Cars section.

-JOEL L. STEINBERG Washington, D.C.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

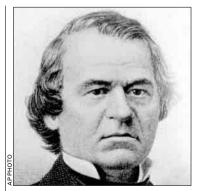
Today in History

MartinLutherwas banned by the Edict of Worms because of his religious beliefs and writings.

1868 The impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson ended with his acquittal on all remaining charges.

1940 The evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

1960 U.N. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge accused the Soviets of hiding a microphone inside a wood carving of the Great Seal of the United States that had been presented



Presidents Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton were the only to be impeached.

to the U.S. embassy in Moscow.

1987 the first legal casino in the eastern U.S. opened in Atlantic City, N.J.

People



The shooting was apparently random.

VIOLENCE

Beanie Shot. But He's OK

BEANIESIGEL was wounded by gunfire during an attempted robbery early Thursday. Sigel's attorney said the shooting appeared to be "a random act of violence." The rapper spent a few hours at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania before leaving around 11:40 a.m. (AP)

RECOVERING

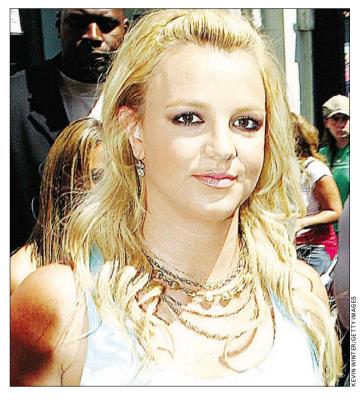
Rose Speaks of Near-Miss

CHARLIE ROSE, 64, says he's a lucky man. The PBS host was travel-



ing in Syria in March when he developed heart trouble requiring surgery. "You're talking to someone who's very,

very lucky. It could have gone the other way," Rose told The Daily Dispatch of Henderson, N.C., his hometown. (AP)



'I'm One of Y'all'

Headlines about **BRITNEY SPEARS**' near-fall while carrying her baby are evoking sympathy, rather than outrage, from fellow moms. Parenting.com asked readers whether the media went too far in portraying Spears as a bad mother. Almost 10,000 answered; 75 percent said yes, 25 percent no. "I'm not sure this means Britney Spears will be in every mom's Hall of Fame," said Janet Chan, editor in chief of Parenting magazine. "But this [incident] caused them to say, 'Hey, now we're picking on her.'" (AP)

OXYMORONS

Settling: It's Like a Warm **Lawyer Hug**

Lawyers on both sides of the CBS Corp. and HOWARD **STERN** breach of contract

lawsuit said Wednesday they

have settled. A clerk in the New York courtroom said lawyers for the parties called around 3:15 p.m. to announce that they had an agreeHis hair, however, is still going to court.

ment. CBS sued Stern in February, claiming that its former star breached his contract when he moved

to Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. A woman in the office of Stern's lawyer confirmed that the sides had agreed to a settlement, but said the agreement had not been signed. (AP)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

This Seems About Right

Former "Dallas" star VICTORIA PRINCIPAL, 60, filed for divorce Tuesday, just shy of her 21st anniversary with Harry Glassman, her plastic surgeon hubbie. She cited



irreconcilable differences, said TMZ.com. She requested that he not receive spousal support. (EXPRESS)

Sat. Hi/Lo/W

62/55/sh

84/68/s

62/50/pc

Janet Inflicts an Overweight **Mariah Carey on the World**

JANET JACKSON says she gained 60 pounds for a role in the upcoming film "Tennessee." "[The producers] wanted to see me in a different light, as a heavier woman," said the singer, who was about 180 pounds at her heaviest. "The timing didn't quite work with trying to finish my album, and unfortunately I wasn't able to do the film," she told US magazine. The role went to Mariah Carey. (AP)



5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area





Evening thunder storm, partly cloudy 66°

Partly sunny, a





Mostly sunny

Almanac

Temperature

Normal low

Average humidity ...

24 hours ending 4 p.m.

Normal month to date ...

Precipitation

Year to date Last year to date Normal year to date ...

High

Low Normal high ..

83° / 63°

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.



Sunny, a very warm 87° / 65°



89°/67°

Regional Weather 85/65 Morgantown 2 75/60 Baltimore 85/63 Washington, DC 85/66 Charleston 76/60 Virginia Beach 388/67

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather. Inc. @2006

washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, variably cloudy, showers, a heavier thunderstorm, warm, humid High 85. Wind southwest 8-16 mph. Tonight, an evening thun-

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today Sunset tonight	
Moonrise today	
Moonset today	. 8:18 p.m.

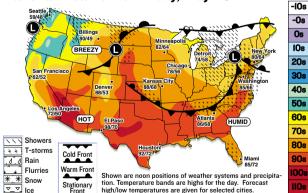








National Weather for Friday, May 26



World Cities **National Cities**

Hallollai	OILICS		770. IG C.	1103
City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	86/68/t	89/69/t	Amsterdam	59/54/r
Boston	71/58/t	68/54/sh	Athens	81/61/pc
Chicago	78/56/pc	82/64/s	Berlin	59/45/r
Dallas	94/74/s	94/74/s	Buenos Aires	66/55/c
Denver	88/53/s	88/50/s	Calgary	48/42/r
Honolulu	84/72/pc	86/72/s	Dublin	61/50/pc
Los Angeles	72/60/pc	69/56/pc	Geneva	73/57/pc
Miami	85/72/t	87/74/t	Moscow	66/48/pc
New York City		80/62/pc	Rome	79/54/s
Orlando	88/70/t	92/70/t	Sydney	63/52/pc
Seattle	59/48/sh	59/48/sh	Tokvo	68/57/pc

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

19

22



Music Lesson

ACROSS

- 1 Word with tag or double
- 5 Answering-
- machine feature 9 Thrash about
- 14 Potent start 15 Europe's tallest
- volcano 16 Links' rara avis
- 17 Gas that's hard
- to ignore 18 It has its place in
- the Bible
- 19 Came around
- 20 Make calls
- 23 Playground
- rejoinder 24 Sheet at the
- police station . 25 Word with
- media or hysteria
- 29 They're uncertain
- 31 Type of clock or
- number
- 33 Adventurous exploit
- 37 Tinker about
- 40 Tin Man's quest 42 "Fantasy Island"
- prop
- 43 Strauss selection?
- 44 Transplant hero
- 47 You may get a
- hand here 48 Daily ritual,
- below the border 49 Burglarize
- 51 "Live at Red Rocks" musician
- John
- 52 Multiple refusals
- 55 Declared
- 60 Really taut
- 63 Bringing death

66 Much of Mongolia 67 Mystique, e.g. 68 Key ring

- 69 Sterilizing apparatus
- 70 Overpriced, e.g.
- badly, e.g.
- 72 Kind of loaf
- 73 Concert halls

- 1 South Pacific
- 3 Swinburne's
- 4 City in North
- an attack 6 Permanently mark, in a way
- 7 Word of welcome
- title
- 12 Classification
- Me" lyric) 22 A birthstone
- 26 Nitrogen compound
- 28 Jerk 30 Forage storage

71 Needs a bath

17

20

23

44

48

DOWN

- nation
- 2 Islamic prince (Var.)
- on Charlotte Bronte"
- Dakota 5 Drive back, as
- 8 Former Turkish
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- 33 Author's writer 34 Unsettlingly strange 35 Men of learning,
- e.g. 36 Some attempts at intimidation, in
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- 45 Backwoods interjection

46 "The Thieving

32 "The Splendid Splinter" Williams

65

- 54 Potbelly, e.g. 56 State since 1890 57 Certain priest of old
 - 58 Sudden onrush 59 City since 1854 61 Troubles and misfortunes

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Magpie" composer Yesterday's Solution

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Degree of Difficulty: HARD

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com



puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

Yesterday's Solution

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ART DIRECTOR-SCOTT MCCARTHY | SECTION EDITORS-JENNIFER BARGER, ARION BERGER, MICHAEL GRASS, VICKY HALLETT, MAUREEN HOCH, CHRIS MINCHER, HOLLY MORRIS, KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY, MATT SWENSON, CAITLIN THOMPSON | EDITORIAL DESIGN-

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RandomOrder

THINGS WE FIND WAXEN, TECHIE, SPACE-WORTHY, KATIE AND HORRIFYING



WiFi Phones

Early adopters swoon, trumpets sound, angels sing. Netgear is taking preorders for its wireless WiFi mobile handset, rumored to be the first of its kind to market. When paired with Skype's new free U.S./Canada service and a WiFi hotspot, this amounts to a free phone. Once you shell out for the \$300 gadget, available this summer, that is. And outside a hotspot, it's just a cute block of plastic.



Scary Wax People in D.C.

Washington tourists can explore nature, history and art at the Smithsonian, ponder the significance of the country at stunning monuments and, perhaps, soon hit up a wax museum before swinging by the Hard Rock Cafe. Madame Tussauds is reportedly eying a spot in downtown's grand old Woodies building to install frighteningly life-like sculptures of celebrities (like Bill Clinton, above, at a Tussauds in Shanghai). It may be the only way Brangelina will ever move to D.C.



Shoes With Cloven Toes

It's fun to show people cool stuff they can't have. Asics is cooking up space sneakers that will keep astronauts toned despite atrophy-making zero gravity. Each shoe weighs a mere 4.6 ounces; they swoop up at the tip to stretch calf muscles. But the really fun part is the cleft between the big toe and the other four little piggies, which helps 'nauts stand steady. Want a pair? Be a Japanese astronaut.



2 Bye, Katie

Beyonce, Elmo and Colin Powell have all bid farewell to Katie Couric as she leaps from the beginning of our days to sometime during our evening commute. Her final episode is May 31. Will anyone bother to get up on Thursday?



Ad Stamps

The U.S. Postal Service will now allow companies to buy customized postage displaying advertising. Hewlett-Packard is the first taker.



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The Washington Post





FOOD DRAIN: Until May 18, Thomas held the American record for hot-dog eating in the U.S. Perhaps she'll rise again!

Fog of Hot Dogs

Local eating champ stuffs herself to win

AT A DOWNRIGHT SKINNY 100 pounds. 38-year-old Alexandria resident Sonya Thomas doesn't seem to live up to her sinister nickname, "The Black Widow." But if you've ever watched her devour a heap of 46 crab cakes in 10 minutes (as she did in April) or a 9 lb. cheeseburger in 27 minutes (as she did in January), her awesome talent proves her title as the top competitive eater in the country. This Saturday, she heads to the regional qualifier for the eaters' main annual event: the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest. She's favored to go on to the finals in Coney Island, but the competition is heating up. In addition to perennial winner Takeru Kobayashi of Japan, she'll be facing down Joey Chestnut, who broke her American record of 42 hot dogs



in 12 minutes by downing 50 this past weekend. Express' Vicky Hallett got some more morsels out of her.

So how are you training?

The hot dog is difficult for me because I normally don't eat hot dogs much. But it's like being a sprinter. It's important to be prepared mentally. I've been drinking a lot of liquids to stretch my stomach more and I've been chewing gum to improve my jaw strength. After five or six minutes, your jaw gets tired and that can slow you down.

I eat dried octopus too.

What do you drink?

I'm a manager of a Burger King, and we have the king size, which is 44 oz. I'll have three or four Diet Cokes in a day. But I'm not constantly drinking without food because then you just pee and you're not stretching your stomach.

What's your favorite food?

Seafood. I can eat more of that than meat because I grew up with seafood. I also love to eat eggs. I never get sick of eggs. I ate 65 hard-boiled eggs in six minutes, 41 seconds. But I could have eaten more.

Why do you do this?

Me, I love the competition. It's not for the money. A lot of people know about the contests and I get recognition. Everybody says, "I saw you on ESPN." Sometimes I'm like a celebrity and people ask for an autograph. They always say, "I love watching you eat."

What happens at restaurants?

I eat normal food, but I never have a doggy bag, even though I'll order an appetizer and a main course. I finish and they'll say, "Ohmigosh, she can eat." But they don't know I'm a competitive eater.

66 I can handle

16 or 17 pounds of food. Some people call this disgusting, but it's a sport. ... I have to win."

Do you have a favorite restaurant?

I like buffets because they have allvou-can-eat fruit.

Advice for future eaters?

Work on technique. The food needs to get pushed down to your stomach instead of staying in your throat. Then you have more space. After I compete, I think I could have done better. The only thing is time. I don't have a stomachache. I can handle 16 or 17 pounds of food. Some people call this disgusting, but it's a sport, like car racing or figure skating. I don't care if they think it's disgusting, I have to win.

How do you keep your figure?

I treadmill four or five times a week. You have to keep your body comfortable. I also work 12 hours a day nonstop, that's why I like working at a fast-food restaurant.

Why are you the Black Widow?

It was right for me. I'm the female that competes with the males and I kill them. That's a female spider and she kills men.

Why aren't more women involved in competitive eating?

I think a lot of women have a desire to try it but they're too shy to compete. And they think it's disgusting more than men. They say, "That's nasty, I don't want to do that." But my mind is like a man's. We have the same body, so why not?

> The Manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

Memorial Day is almost here. Can you pick me out a white shoe in honor of this annual fashion milestone? -SOFIA

Manolo says, at the last! The summer it is officially here! Let the suffering begin!

It is not the secret that the summer in the District of the Columbia, it can be unpleasant. The humidity and the heat they are oppressive, and the mosquitoes they are as thick and as importuning as the candidates asking for the contributions.

It is this latter fact which always makes the Manolo give thanks to the person who invented the electronic zapper of the bugs. This clever device it kills the pests while the electric blue sparks provide us with hours of joyful entertainment. If only the zapper it could be produced in the extrastrength congressperson size, then this city of Washington, truly it would



be the Garden of Eden.

Of the course, the Manolo he has his own ways of surviving the unpleasantness of summers in this climate, most of which involve leaving and/or never returning. However, there is the other possibility, which it is to put on the cooling cotton clothing and the white summery shoes and stride out into the wilting world with the attitude of good cheer.

This it is why the Manolo is so very fond of the resort shoes of the Lilly Pulitzer, because they are the epitome of the summer cool. This one, called the Juicy (\$174, zappos.com), it is exactly what the weather demands.

On the Cover

Express Top Model Veena is wearing Dress by Beau Boise (\$75, All About Jane) and a bracelet (\$38) from White House Black Market. See page 4 for details. Styling by Lauretta McCoy. Photo by Michelle Repiso.



Manites of Spring

Memorial Day marks the return of warm-weather pleasures like barbecues and white dresses — a dangerous combo if you factor in the probability of condiment stains. But until Labor Day, rock pale frocks with abandon. Just remember, it's still tacky to wear white to a wedding unless you're the one in the veil. Mix in pops of color — a green bag or yellow sandals. They'll help distract from any relish or mustard mishaps. COLLEEN EGAN





WHITE NIGHTS: Go for flowy fabriand tailored cuts, li this strapless bea ty from Helen War (\$298, VALISE, 162 WISCONSIN AVE. NV 202-333-3622). Add Santi's clutch (\$200, VALISE), Faryl Robin's sandals (\$137, ZAPPOS.COM), amet lic bangle (\$5.80, Fo 21) and oversized ear MEI-MEI'S, 2910 M 333-0202).

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Michael Francavillo, Gwendolyn Roberts

Michael, 26, is the Manager of Content and Licensing at Widerthan Americas, Inc. Gwendolyn, 30, is the Health and Wellness Coordinator and a faculty member at Gallaudet University. They live in Washington.

THE MAIN EVENT: A semi-formal, castle-themed wedding for 120 guests on May 27 in Baltimore.

HOW THEY MET: They were next-

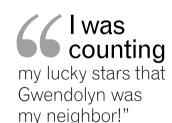
door neighbors. Michael was having a housewarming party on the same night Gwendolyn was having her birthday party. "We decided to merge the parties for twice the fun!"

HOW SHE KNEW: On a trip to New York. "We spent one amazing day in Central Park, and that's when I knew!" said Gwendolyn.

THE DRESS: An ivory silk dress with silver detailing and a cathedrallength train.

MMM, **CAKE** ... Almond cake with strawberry mousse and red velvet cake with fudge creme. "This is the tastiest cake we found — and we tasted quite a few!" they said.

BIGGEST FEAR: "We will be with close friends and family — what could go wrong?"





Line-Drawn Love

The phrase "comic-book romance" might make you think of a couple who spend the majority of their time discussing whether someone as preppy as Cyclops can ever really be a superhero. But **COLLEEN PRZYBYLA** and **NICKOLAS RUTAR** are far from comic geeks. Every Valentine's Day, Nickolas makes a comic book chronicling their relationship. On V-Day in 2005, he continued the tradition. "I found that Nick had removed about 300 pages in a one-inch square to fit my ring flush inside the book," said Colleen. "The page the ring was sitting on had a picture of me on my knees," added Nick.

The two will marry in Vermont, where they met when Nick started an intramural volleyball team and recruited Colleen to play. "I thought she was out of my league, and then I tried to buy her a drink and she shot me down. Then a couple of days later I bought her Tetris for old-school Nintendo and she decided I was cool," said Nick.

Colleen, 26, is a systems engineer at Trident Systems in Fairfax. Nick, 26, is a PhD student in computer science at the University of Maryland. They live in Montgomery Village and will marry July 29.



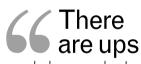
Jenifer Brown, Airey Moore

Jenifer, 26, is a teacher at the Patricia Roberts Harris Educational Center in D.C. Airey, 30, is a D.C. police officer. They live in Forestville.

THE MAIN EVENT: A semi-formal outdoor ceremony for 220 guests on June 3. The officiating pastor also performed the weddings of Jenifer's mother and grandmother.

HONEYMOON: Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

HOW THEY MET: At Mirage, a nightclub in D.C. "I noticed him but wouldn't say anything, so one of my friends went over and told him that I was interested," said Jenifer. "She sent her friend over to say hi.



and downs, but we take chances for love," said Jenifer.

Scott Lyons, Michele Woodruff

Scott, 29, is an attorney with the American Bar Association. Michele, 28, is an attorney for the Department of Justice. They live in Washington.

THE MAIN EVENT: An ultra-casual Jewish ceremony for 115 guests on June 3 in Lake Tahoe, Calif.

HONEYMOON: First, a mini-vacation to the Outer Banks. They're hoping to take a trip to the Galapagos Islands later.

FIRST DATE: Dinner and drinks at Utopia on U Street. HOW HE PROPOSED: "I proposed on a beach in Malibu at sunset by reading an adapted version of 'Green Eggs and Ham' ... saying, 'I will love you in the rain, I will love

you in a train ... "said Scott.

STUPIDEST FIGHT: "Probably something to do with his parents wanting to walk him down the aisle,



which neither of us wanted and yet we somehow were fighting about it," said Michele.

MAKING IT UNIQUE: The ceremony will

have a tisch, a pre-party where men and women celebrate separately; a bedeken, where the bride is "veiled"; and a ketubah, a marriage contract. "And, of course, Scott smashing the wineglass and everyone yelling, 'Mazel Tov!'" said Michele.

THE DRESS: Michele will wear her mother's wedding dress, a "gorgeous floor-length cream lace dress over pink fabric." Guests must wear colors: "No white or black allowed," said Scott.

MMM, **CAKE**: Chocolate with raspberry filling and vanilla with vanilla custard.

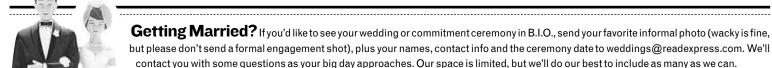
She wanted me!" said Airey.

FIRST DATE: Burger King. "I was babysitting my baby brother," explained Jenifer.

WHEN HE KNEW: "I got hurt and was in the hospital and she was by my side the whole time," said Airey.

HOW HE PROPOSED: New Year's Eve 2004, on the Las Vegas Strip. "He got on his knees at midnight in front of sooo many people," said Jenifer.

STUPIDEST FIGHT: "He would not stop tickling me, so I got mad and we didn't speak all day," said Jenifer. **MAKING IT UNIQUE:** "We are pouring libation to recognize our heritage, ancestors and our future."



samurai SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MIDDLEWEIGHT

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Last Week's Solution

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How to Play

The rules of Samurai Sudoku are the same as in the popular Sudoku puzzles that appear in Express and The Washington Post.

As with standard Sudoku, the Samurai version requires no math, just logic, reasoning ... and an iron will. The goal is to fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles.

A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another. As always, there's only one solution, which will appear in next week's edition of LookOut Weekend.

Can't get enough Sudoku? Find a standard Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.



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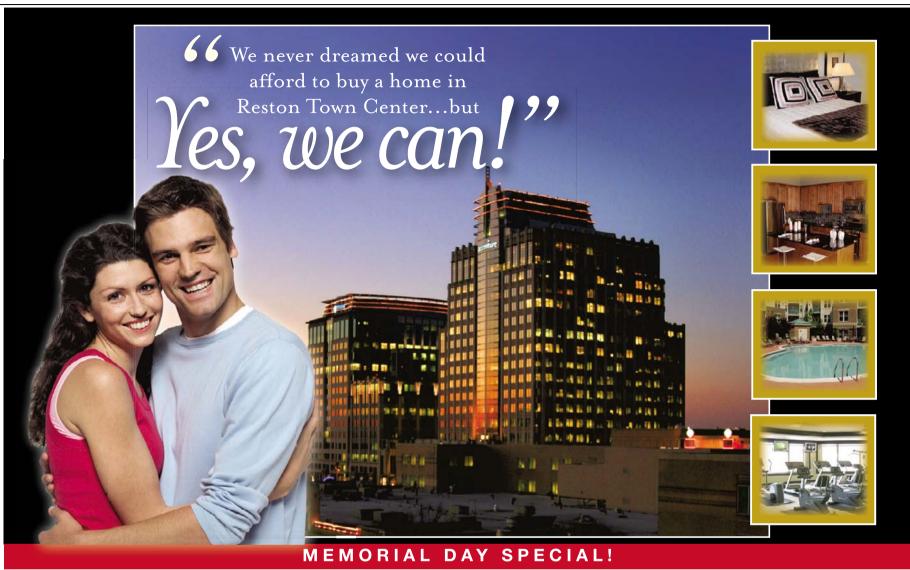






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Hot 'Hood: Adams Morgan's vibrant cultural mix has made it a destination location for the city's upscale condo seekers | **EIB**

Go It Alone: DIY home sales can mean bigger profits for those willing to put up with the equally big headaches | **E2**

House-By-Mouse: More and more buyers are doing most of their condo-hunting legwork via the Web | **E29**

CONDOLiving

Take My Pad, Please

DIY home sales mean bigger profits and, often, bigger hassles

Michael Mou and his wife listed their two-bedroom Arlington condo with a real estate agent last fall but didn't get a bite in 60 days. Now they're planning to remodel the kitchen and try to sell the unit, near the Court House Metro station, themselves.

The couple, who have two babies and two full-time jobs, know it will take a lot more effort to do it themselves. But Mou, a government information technology contractor, and his wife, Daphne Lin, also an IT worker, think it would be worth the time and energy if they can save the traditional 6 percent commission and put that money toward their next home.

"There were at least 50 people shown our home when we had an agent, but none of them put in an offer," Mou said. "So we thought if we fixed up the kitchen and were able to drop the price because we won't have to pay the agent, that will make it more interesting to buyers. That's one of the main reasons we're doing it: to avoid the cost of



Daphne Lin and Michael Mou listed their Arlington condo with a Realtor, but it didn't sell. Now they're hawking it themselves.

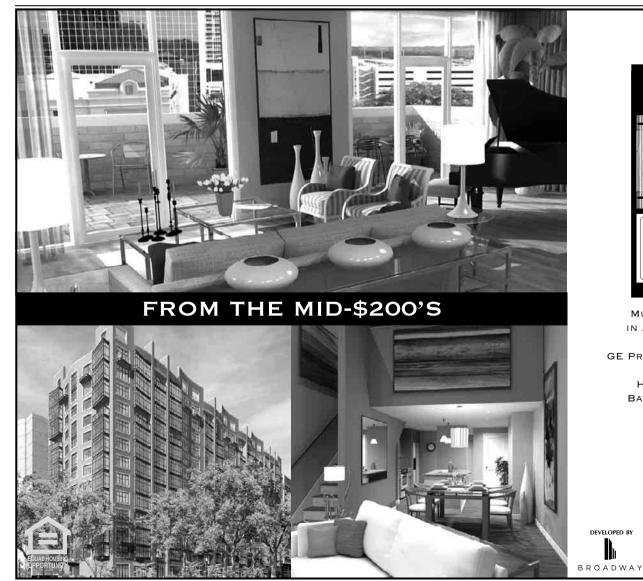
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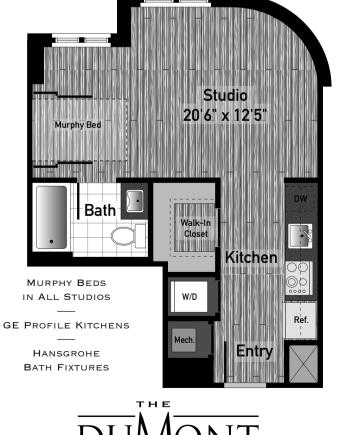
But is going it alone a good idea now that the climate seems to be shifting from a seller's market to a buyer's market?

It's always tempting to consider "for sale by owner" — "fizzbo," in real estate lingo. The idea has become more alluring as home prices in the area have doubled in the

past six years. On a \$600,000 sale, paying no commission means keeping \$36,000. But don't sellers need real estate agents even more when

Continued on page E4





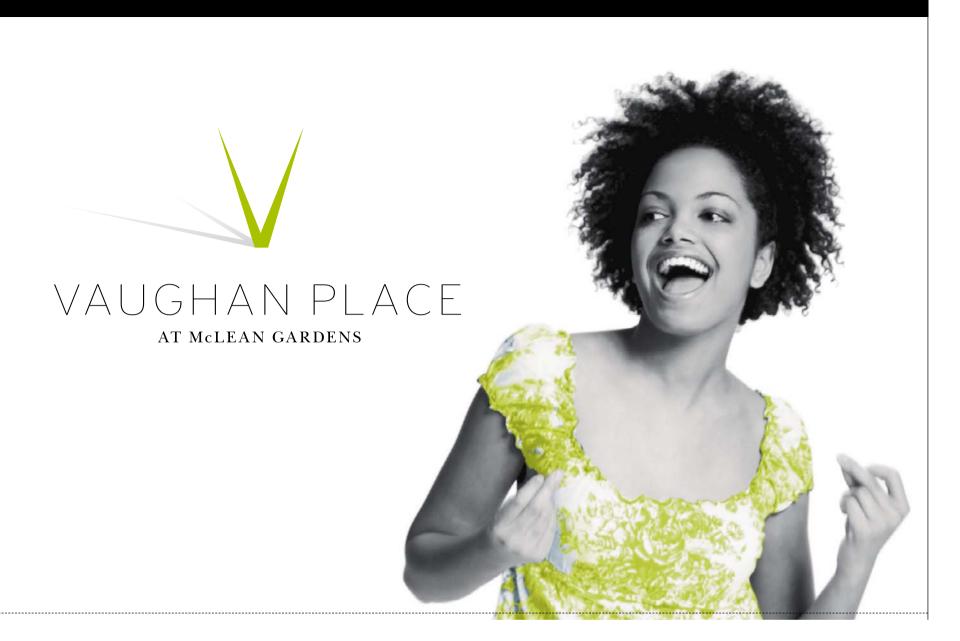


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Continued from page E2

the competition is stacking up? It depends on whom you ask.

The real estate industry, which abhors FSBOs, says this is the worst time to go without professional help because sellers need more guidance in a slowing market, not less. "You need to have it listed with someone who can go the distance. Sure, there are sprinters who can do it for a day. But to continue to market a house for 30 days, 60 days or even 90 days takes a long-distance runner," said Paul Valentino, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's regional vice president for Virginia and the District.

Established brokers claim that FSBO numbers dropped as a percentage of all sellers during the hot market and won't climb when it's colder outside. They even scoff at FSBO savings. Thomas M. Stevens, president of the National Association of Realtors and a senior vice president of NRT Inc. in Vienna, points to a recent sur-

vey his organization performed that found that sellers with agents netted 16 percent more than those without. "So why would you go it alone? Why would you sit at home 24-7 and do all the work an agent would do for you and run the risk that you might miss a potential buyer?"

FSBO enthusiasts, however, say that while there are no official statistics on how many sellers try the route or on how much money they make, it appears that the number of do-it-yourselfers is multiplying. That's based just on the increasing volume of Web site listings of such properties and on reports of Web traffic.

The Internet makes marketing a home easier for lone sellers, said Colby Sambrotto, chief operating officer of ForSaleByOwner.com. He contends that a softening market does not mean FSBOs will drop off. "As we transition into a buyer's market, we think it's going to be good for our business. People want to hold on to as much of the equity as they can."

Realtor.com, NAR's official Web site, is the mother lode of online listings, with about 3 million a year. But specialized Web sites such as ForSaleByOwner.com and Owners.com claim to be offering

"People want to hold on to as much of their equity as they can."

COLBY SAMBROTTO

more listings every year and also provide do-it-yourself advice and materials, such as yard signs and "e-books" of information and forms. Big general-interest Web sites such as Craigslist.org and Google.com are also offering or starting to offer real estate listings on their for-sale bulletin boards.

Sambrotto said his site's listings and revenue doubled from the end of 2004 to the end of last year. On its Web site, ForSaleByOwner.com says it has helped sell more than 90,000 homes since 1997, saving about \$1 billion in commissions on about \$18 billion in sales.

That's still a teensy sliver of the pie. Nationally, the number of existing houses sold has jumped to a record 7.1 million last year from about 6.2 million in 2003, according to NAR statistics.

"By their very nature, [FSBOs] don't report," said Stefan Swanepoel, a California-based real estate consultant.

The industry has "for the last decade used a percentage between 10 and 15 percent," Swanepoel said. "But I've also heard people say that maybe as many as 20 to 25 percent [of sellers] might have started as FSBOs but somewhere in the process changed their minds. They dropped out either because it was

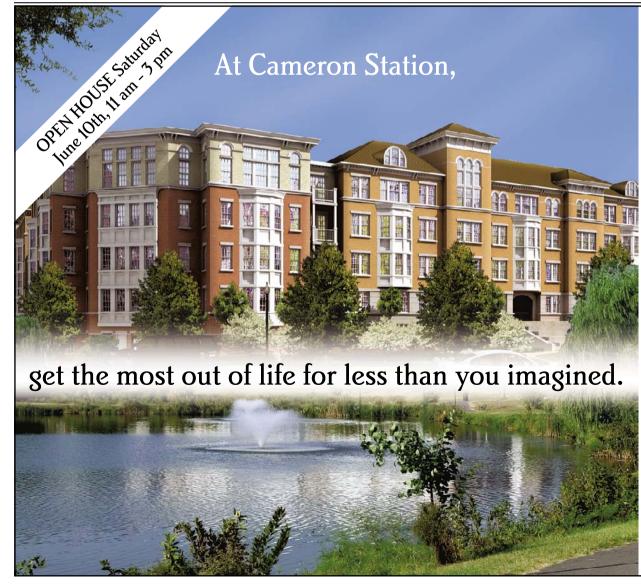
too tedious or too lengthy a process, or because they decided there was too much traffic in my house or that they didn't want to spend the marketing dollars."

The big question for sellers, he said: "Can you be as effective as an agent? You always think you can do it faster, but it's not that easy."

A basic listing on Sambrotto's company's Web site costs \$89.95 a month. Higher-end packages cost \$699 and \$899 for an array of materials plus access to the local multiple-listing service through a local real estate broker. The broker charges a flat fee, not a commission, for getting the listing into the Realtors' listing database, and the seller pays only the 3 percent commission to the buyer's agent.

In response to the popularity of FSBO Web sites, flat-fee listing brokerages and discount brokerages, the Realtors association in February unveiled a \$25 million "public awareness campaign" to trumpet the value of its 1.2 mil-

Continued on page E6



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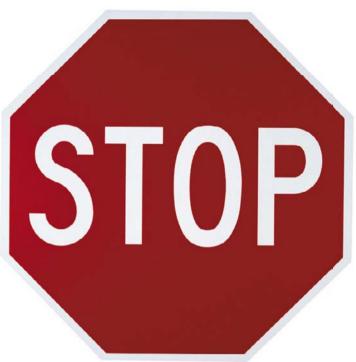




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CONDOLiving

Continued from page E4

lion members. One of the new commercials, called "Don't Try This at Home," ballyhoos the recent association survey that says agents help their clients make a bigger profit than FSBOs.

The industry has faced official allegations that it deters competition by controlling access to listing information and other practices. The Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission are investigating various NAR practices; the association disputes charges that its policies are anti-competitive.

Unlike some do-it-yourself devotees, condo seller Mou is not opposed to using an agent. But because his last outing with an agent tanked, he figures he'll try the FSBO alternative for a month or two. "If it doesn't sell in 30 or 45 days or whatever the average time on market is now, we may find ourselves an agent. It's very emotional and draining to go through all the showings," he said.

Jim Landolt of Great Falls calls himself "a fan of FSBOs" — he has sold two properties that way and is in the process of selling a vacant lot in West Virginia. But he said there are drawbacks. One is setting the asking price. "You will get no help for this."

But because there are more ways to access recent sales through the Internet, including new Web sites such as Zillow.com, which promises to provide an instant "zestimate" of the value of many houses, Landolt said it is becoming easier to calculate prices.

He said, "You also won't get help negotiating the terms." That could make some sellers nervous or send them to a discount broker for representation at the last minute.

Charlene Hout, who is selling her Georgetown house herself, said the process is intense and requires a full-time commitment. "I consider this my job, but if I can make the kind of money that I would give up in the commission, I've done really well, haven't I?" she said.

Hout said her attempt to market her three-story brick house for \$1.95 million has drawn some flak in the tony neighborhood. "I've had real estate agents say, 'You can't do it,' meaning it's just not done here.

"People were shown our home, but none of them put in an offer."

> MICHAEL MOU ARLINGTON CONDO OWNER

That it's tacky or low-brow or something," she said.

But she has bought and sold houses FSBO before, and the incentive to keep going with this one is strong. "The commission on a house like this would be about \$120,000," she said. (Paying a commission to a buyer's agent would cut into her savings or those of any FSBO, and most buyers have agents. In a typical transaction, the sellers pay 3 percent to their agent's company and 3 percent to the buyer's representative.)

Hout said she did her own market analysis and believes her house is the only one in the eastern part of Georgetown on the market for less than \$2 million.

She has done homework, including checking with a title company, getting the proper legal forms for sales and disclosures, and preparing ads. She has also agreed to "one-time showing" arrangements in which agents offered to represent her house to a client at a higher price so that they could get a commission.

Agents have been persistent in trying to get the listing, she said. "These people drive you nuts. They keep calling. ... A lot don't even identify themselves when they come by. Or they will tell you that they have

a client and then try to get you as a client."

But her goal is to stay FSBO. "I don't think they can make me any more money than what I would get if I sold without them," she said.

Norma Hetrick in Bowie is not quite as gung-ho about FSBOs as she was in January when she put her four-bedroom, $3\frac{1}{2}$ -bath home on the market for \$699,500. She has reduced the price to \$659,000. But she's not in a rush yet, either, because she and her husband are moving into a retirement community that's under construction.

Hetrick said she doesn't find the time needed overwhelming. "You get phone calls and set up the appointments when it's convenient."

Stevens, president of the Realtors association, concedes that FSBO sales are possible. "Hey, it can be done. But I can tell you I wouldn't do it, and I have my home for sale in Great Falls right now." With an agent, of course. "My wife and I don't have the time to do it." SANDRA FLEISHMAN (WASHINGTON POST)



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CONDOLiving

Studio-Sized Love

With a little give and take, couples thrive in teeny apartments

For couples who share tiny spaces, every moment presents an opportunity to snuggle up with the one you love. When you live in an apartment the size of a dorm room, everything making dinner, doing dishes, folding laundry, paying bills — takes on a certain intimacy, whether you want it to or not.

The "tour" of Jennifer and Jeremy Haile's apartment lasts only as long as it takes a visitor to glance from left to right about 45 degrees. For the past four years, since returning from a Peace Corps stint overseas, the couple has called a 416-square-foot Georgetown studio home.

Their bed — which is also one of their two couches — is a futon, hard up against the front door. Books, papers, vitamins and foodstuffs share shelf space in one corner. The computer doubles as an entertainment center; they watch DVDs on it and store all of their music on its hard drive. Their refrigerator and stove look like full-size versions that have been shrunk to about 65 percent by some sort of kitchen-appliance copying machine.

Wait: It gets better. Jeremy Haile is currently a first-year law student at George Washington University and does most of his studying at home. And because first-year law students study more or less around the clock, peace and quiet are more valuable to him right now than anything.

During exams, he says, "I was pulling close to 20-hour days. But Jen has the patience of Job. She would use headphones [to watch TV or listen to music]; she prepared all of my meals, and I'd go in my little corner and study. And somehow it worked."

The Hailes are no strangers to domestic deprivation. As Peace Corps volunteers, they lived in what they refer to as a "Sovietstyle" apartment in Armenia, where it was so cold that any water left



CLOSE QUARTERS: Brad and Cynthia Koons, with dog Barney, share a basement apartment near Dupont Circle that measures less than 400 square feet.

in the bathtub would freeze over. "To go into the kitchen, you had to dress like you were going outside," Jennifer says.

For two years they slept in a twin bed, with only a small kerosene heater — and each other — to warm them. "Now, when we go to a hotel and there's a king-size bed, we sleep together at the very edge of it," she says. "We don't really know how to sleep apart."

Living in comically cramped quarters may be easier when you're madly in love with your roommate, the Hailes say, but that doesn't necessarily make it easy. Every move they make reflects a negotiation of sorts.

"Jeremy was losing his eyesight during his first semester." says Jennifer, an events coordinator for National Public Radio. "He thought he was going to have to get glasses. The doctor told him: 'You have to stop reading in such small amounts of light.' What was happening was that I would go to bed at 10:30 or so, and he would turn on this tiny little lamp" to stay up reading until 1:00 a.m. or later. "So now I have to go to bed with the lights on, which is unfortunate." Her husband recently bought her a sleeping mask. (It helps.)

"The three Cs - communication, commitment and compromise - will get you through almost any sort of conflict," says Regina Leeds, a Los Angeles-based professional organizer and author of the 2003 book "Sharing a Place Without Losing Your Space: A Couple's Guide to Blending Homes, Lives, and Clutter" (Alpha Books).

In her work with cohabiting couples, she has learned that one of the most frequent sources of disagreement is over where to put, and indeed whether to keep, the innumerable things that accrue over the course of their lives.

"People usually bring too much stuff with them," says Leeds. "And then they make assumptions about that stuff. I'll presume that you're going to love my mother's pink china — and that this is what we will be using on the holidays. And I don't talk to you about it, because, well, surely, if you love me, you can see how beautiful this is. You, on the other hand, are presuming that I see how beautiful your mother's beige china is."

Both presumptions are wrong, she suggests. "Especially in a small space, you need to divest yourself of everything that is not critical. That can mean tossing things. But it can also mean getting a storage space, or better yet, asking Mom and Dad if you can store things in their garage, or in your old room."

That idea worked for Brad Koons. When his parents moved from Arizona to a nearby suburb in Maryland, he persuaded them to let him keep his car and his copious outdoor gear at their house, rather than at the minuscule English basement he and his wife, Cynthia, share near Dupont Circle.

Though it's a one-bedroom, their apartment appears to be smaller than the Hailes' studio. (They don't know how many square feet it is, and have never asked. The figure wasn't disclosed in the original "for lease" listing. Imagine that.)

But the Koonses — he's a lawyer, she just received her graduate degree - aren't complaining. "We think of the size of the apartment as the price of getting to have a completely walkable lifestyle," Cynthia says. "We really appreciate that we can walk to anything we need in the neighborhood. Brad can walk to work, and I can walk to school."

The Koonses eat on their futon, use their miniature dishwasher as a cabinet and keep pots and pans "under the sink, where normal people keep their cleansers," she says. Their bedroom can barely contain their full-size bed, much less the open shelving where they store clothes, books and CDs.

As a quirky symbol of the couple's commitment to streamlining their lives, a unicycle leans against a wall in the vestibule; a bicycle wouldn't fit.

But their lifestyle may actually be good for their marriage. Cynthia says that living in a shoebox "encourages more communication. You're both sitting right there. There's no escape. If you have an argument, you're just going to have to talk through it and get over it. Every once in a while, one of us will go into the bedroom and shut the door, if we feel like we need some time alone. But for the most part, it forces us to battle it

66 In a small space, you need to divest yourself of everything that is not critical. That can mean tossing things."

> REGINA LEEDS PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER

out until there's peace."

So far, they've managed to avoid the deadly third rail of living together in a tiny space: passive-aggressive "housecleaning" that results in the unauthorized removal of another's stuff.

The Hailes, alas, were not so

"My mom sent me a box with about \$125 worth of cosmetics and vitamins in it," Jennifer says. "I was waiting to start my new beauty regimen until I finished my old supply. Well, because I hadn't opened the clearly marked box in four months, Jeremy decided that I must not want it badly. He trashed it and didn't tell me."

That, as it turns out, was the wrong thing to do.

"It was one of the rare moments of shouting at our place," she says. "I took the opportunity to remind him of everything he's thrown away without my permission. I insisted that he hand-deliver my mom a check, and admit - and apologize for — his disregard for property. But finally I caved, and have been forced to lie to my mom for months about the wonders of Susan Lucci's skin-care therapy."

Now that's true love, people. JEFF TURRENTINE (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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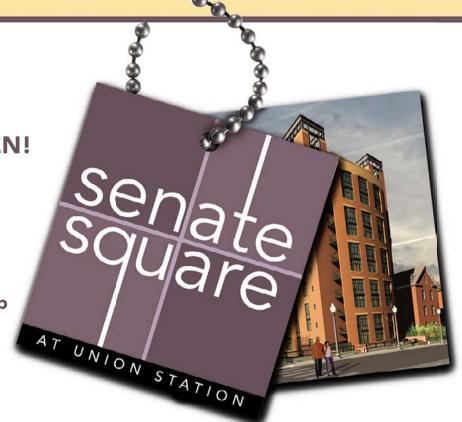
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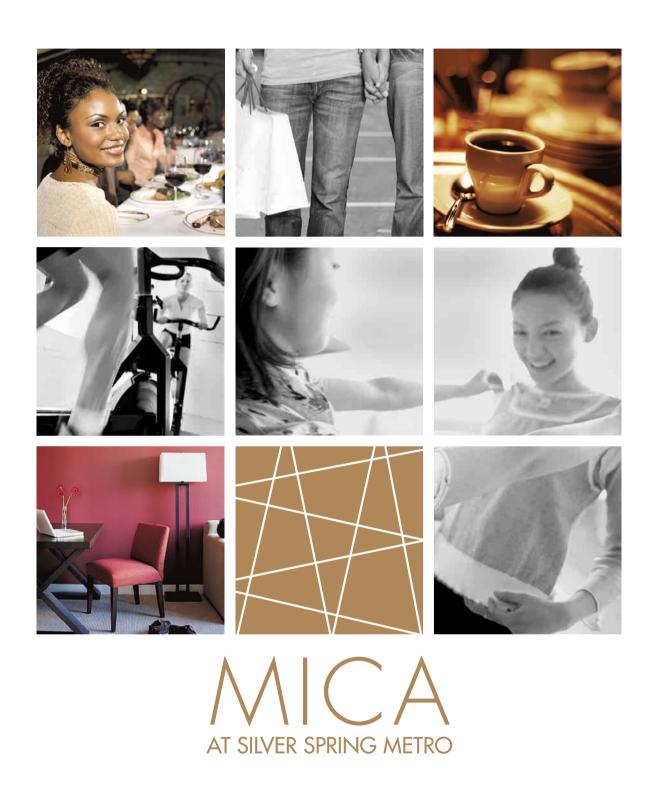




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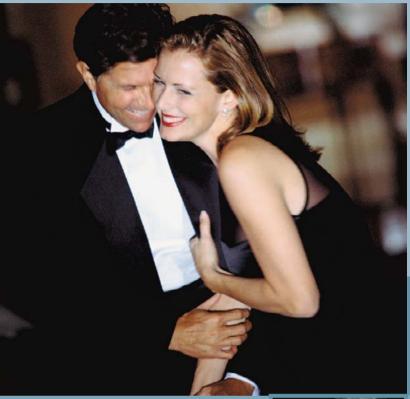


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CONDOLiving

A Worldly Viewpoint

Adams Morgan has African cafes, hot bars and cool condos

Say the words "Adams Morgan" and many Washingtonians think of late nights: Jumbo Slice, long lines to get into Tom Tom, perhaps a lastminute dash to catch the night's last train from the Woodley Park Metro.

But there's more than club-hopping to this historic neighborhood, shaped like a triangle and bounded by 16th and Harvard streets to the Northeast, U Street to the South

and Kalorama Park to the West. In the past decade, D.C.'s "melting pot" 'hood has become home to corporate (and indie) coffee shops, upscale lounges, trendy furnishings boutiques and luxury condo buildings.

"When the neighborhood first started to develop, people looked for bargains," said Dennis Lee, president of Adams Morgan design and development firm Capital Design Group. The new wave of upscale condos first hit the area in 2000, when Capital Design Group and PN Hoffman began putting up and rehabbing buildings in Kalorama



Tired of townhouses, Pam Braden bought an airy, two-level condo at the luxe 2424 Lofts on Adams Morgan's lively 18th Street.

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Bars, restaurants and shops grace busy 18th Street, Adams Morgan's main drag.

and Adams Morgan. Since then, the once-incredible price of \$300 per square foot has become commonplace. "Right now the market is luxury condos," said Lee.

Indeed, some condos along 18th Street, the heart of Adams Morgan, are priced as high as \$2 million each. Real estate agents know these properties attract a very specific type of resident. People looking to buy in Adams Morgan want to live there, not just invest in property to re-sell. "These owner-occupants ask more questions. They want a 'destination address,' and that involves a quality condo with access to everything," said Michelle Giannini, sales director for PN Hoffman, the company responsible for much of the development along and near 18th

One big selling point for these condos: easy access to the neighborhood's amenities. Capital Design Group's latest project is the 2424 Lofts in the building that holds restaurant/bar LeftBank. Three condos boast stunning city views, garage parking and customized construction. This means buyers can choose kitchen cabinets and even reconfigure rooms.

Built above a converted Oldsmobile dealership, the 2600-plussquare-foot lofts start at \$1.8 million and feature state-of-the-art appliances, soak tubs, wet bars and views of the Washington Monument and U.S. Capitol dome from inside each unit, on private terraces and from the as-yet-unfinished roof deck.

Pam Braden, 45, a defense contract company president, is the first occupant of this new urban space. Two other units are currently under contract. "I was tired of traditional townhouses. The upkeep was intim-

idating," she said. "But living on top of all the restaurants and nightlife is really energizing."

Braden's wraparound terrace overlooks all the action. The buzzing scene in Adams Morgan doesn't always sleep when she does, though Braden said she's willing to overlook the sometimes chaotic street

"Living on top of all the restaurants and nightlife is really energizing."

ADAMS MORGAN LOFT BUYER

life. "It does get noisy at times. This is the only place around with outdoor cafes that stay open as late as they do," she admitted. "There are people eating pizza at all hours, and then there's that random guy playing his guitar. But it all combines for that eclectic, sort of artsy atmosphere that I love."

A lively mix of people and a decided ethnic diversity has characterized Adams Morgan for decades. This confluence of Latin, African, Caribbean and Turkish culture shows up in Adams Morgan's diverse restaurant row (see sidebar, page E26), which spans continents, countries and price points. The 'hood is reportedly home to the nation's second-largest Salvadoran population, but businesses — and residents - also hail from West Africa, the Caribbean and Europe.

Not surprisingly, such a poly-

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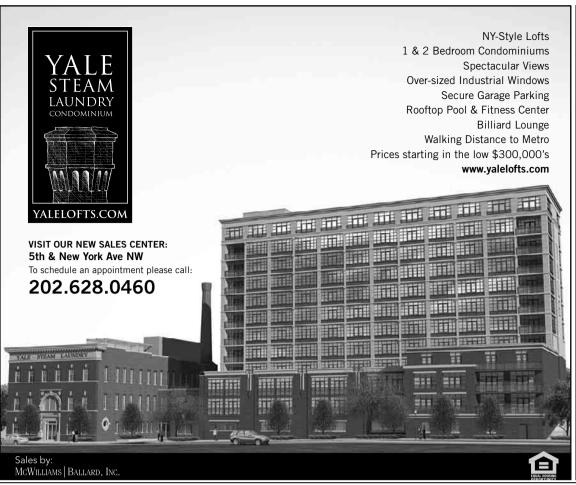
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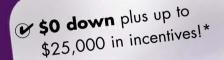


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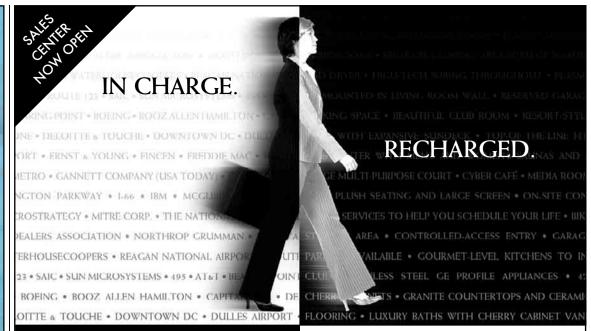
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CONDOLiving



Adams Morgan workout buffs do dead lifts with uplifting views at Mint Fitness.

Continued from E19

community creates some noise. It also lures "Bridge and Tunnelers" in from the 'burbs for noshing and nightlife along 18th Street and Columbia Road. This sometimes spurs conflict between residents and businesses. "There is tension between the million-dollar condo owners and the neighborhood since it's an entertainment zone and always busy," said Mary Abberjay, owner of longtime 18th Street watering hole Toledo Lounge (2435 18th St. NW; 202-986-5416). "It's hard for those who've spent millions to listen to our trash guy every morning at 6 a.m."

Still, business owners — many who reside in the area — generally try to cater to these new residents, especially since haute condo owners often have lots of disposable income. Alex Popovsky owns Felix and the Spy Lounge (2406 and 2408 18th St. NW; 202-483-3549). "There's definitely a different composition in the Adams Morgan area than in Kalorama or Mount Pleasant. There are a lot of SINKS [Single Income No Kids]," he said. "During the week, we see a lot of these neighborhood folks out and about."

And that bustling atmosphere is what drew many residents in the first place. Ben Scher, 25, an economic consultant, moved into a onebedroom condo at PN Hoffman's Champlain Street development in January 2005. "The nightlife here is great," he said. "The [bar] owners are all friendly, and you can truly get any kind of food for a good price."

Loft-dweller Braden was attracted to the zone's entrepreneurial spirit. "You get to know all the proprietors because they're always around. Scottie [Bennett]

who owns the falafel shop, Pierre [Chauvet] who owns the French restaurant [La Fourchette]," she said. "It gives the area a bohemian feeling."

The organic evolution of this funky neighborhood is what keeps it vibrant despite skyrocketing home prices and an invasion of yuppies.

"You've got million-dollar condos next to dive bars. It's an eclectic mix"

JOHN PATRICK MINT FITNESS

"The thing about Adams Morgan is that it just all sort of happened," said Felix's Popovksy. "It's not like other areas that have been manufactured into something artificial like the Penn Quarter." The zone's moniker even smacks of diversity: In the 1950s, Adams was the name of a predominantly white school and Morgan was the name of a mostly African-American one.

Upscale businesses have been moving into the area as well. Design Within Reach (1838 Columbia Rd. NW; 202-265-5640) opened in 2005, selling mid-priced, often mid-century modern style furniture. Other, older businesses like Felix have undergone facelifts or changed hands since the advent of this real-estate boom. "We needed to remodel anyway, but the way we did it reflects the changing neighborhood," said Popovsky.

Continued on page E26



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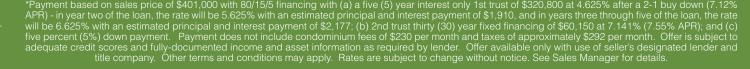
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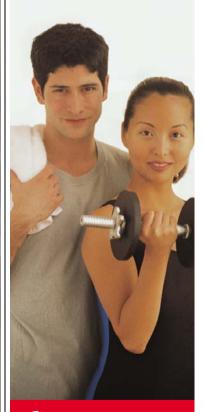
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CONDOLiving



Pixie Windsor surveys her vintage furnishings emporium, Miss Pixie's Furniture & Whatnot, which recently moved to the middle of 18th Street from Adams Mill Road.

Zoning In On Funky Furniture

Now that you've scored that Adams Morgan loft, you won't have to go far to decorate it. Stores stuffed with furniture and accessories include the contempo, upscale Design Within Reach (1838 Columbia Rd. NW; 202-265-5640), Peruvian accent trove Toro Mata (2410 18th St. NW; 202-232-3890) and souklike African import den Bazaar Atlas (2405 18th St. NW; 202-332-4911), where affordable exotica ranges from Moroccan beaded rope baskets to bead-eyed wooden masks from Ghana.

And for eclectic, second-hand merch that somehow fits the area? Visit the shops of vintage hounds — and pals — Pixie Windsor and Carter Anderson. "We get people who are looking for fun and functional furnishings," said Windsor, who oversees the recently relocated Miss Pixie's Furnishings & Whatnot (2473 18th St. NW, 202-232-8171). Behind a sassy pink awning, she hawks well-priced finds like a cedar hope chest with brass trim, shabby-chic velvet sofas and Art Deco vanity tables.

Windsor also partners with Anderson in the quirkier, higherend Dada Decorative Arts (1814 Adams Mill Rd. NW, 202-387-3232). The stock here includes mirrors made of massive old machinepart frames, architectural antiques (pediments, wooden barn shutters), Victorian wire benches and the truly bizarre (a much-larger-than-life bust of Christopher Columbus). Windsor said many condo owners are interested in these wild, often oversized furnishings Dada offers, because they've got big loft spaces to fill. "The vast majority of our business is directly from the neighborhood," she said. K.G.

Continued from E22

contemporary, just like the lofts."

And the developments just keep coming. Capital Design Group just broke ground on The Erie, an eight-unit development on Champlain Street slated to deliver in late spring 2007. With their stylized duct work and warehouse-y look, these new lofts boast open living areas, glass walls and neutral stone bathrooms.

It's just the sort of contemporary look that inspired John Patrick to open his new gym, Mint Fitness (1724 California St., NW; 202328-6468; mintfitness.com). The ultra-mod workout hut bears a striking similarity to nearby condos, with its floor to ceiling windows and Zen-like décor palette. It's a style that Patrick thinks fits the urban surrounding. "Adams Morgan is modern, but still raw," he said. "You've got these milliondollar condos next to old hole-in-the-wall restaurants and dive bars. It's truly an eclectic mix."

Of course, such gentrification may ultimately stifle some of Adams Morgan's trademark quirkiness. "There are people who are

Continued on page E28

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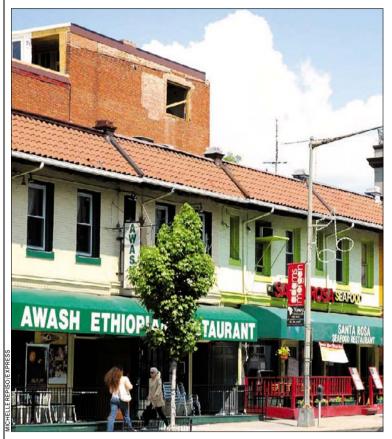
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CONDOLiving



INTERNATIONAL TREASURE: Ethiopian cafes, Latino seafood huts, Middle Eastern falafal shops and several hookah bars attract adventurous foodies to 18th Street.

Tastes Of A Melting Pot'Hood

If you've never eaten inerja (spongy Ethiopian pancakes), feijoada (Brazilian black-bean stew) or Salvadoran pupusas (a quesadillalike concoction), then consider 18th Street and Columbia Road one big experimental, international buffet. Good, often cheap, eats come from a veritable UN of restaurants.

A few faves include Peruvian Granja de Oro (1832 Columbia Rd. NW) for roasted chicken and fried yucca, La Fourcette (2429 18th St. NW) for trad French bistro dishes like escargot and chocolate mousse, Meskerem (2434 18th St. NW) for spicy Ethiopian stews and honey wine and the Grill from Ipanema for potent Brazilian caiparinhas, hearts of palm salads and roast pork (1858 Columbia Rd. NW).

Nightlife here also grooves to an international beat, with after-hours diversions like nightly live reggae, West African food and an embassyheavy crowd at Bukom Cafe (2442 18th St. NW) and world music at Turkish bar Meze (2437 18th St. NW) on weekends. At the latter, there's also Turkish music on Wednesdays.

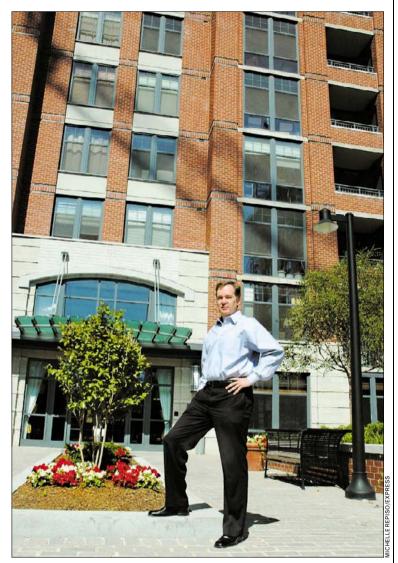
And not surprisingly, there are three hookah bars on 18th Street — Prince Cafe, Queen's Cafe and Hookah. Now that's a smoking scene. K.G.

Continued from E26

Adams Morgan the way it was," said Capital Design Group's Lee. "But there are also those who see the benefits of new businesses and new people."

He also thinks new developments have helped to make Adams Morgan safer. "When I moved here in 1995, cars were broken into and people got shot on a regular basis," he said. "We've got a higher tax base and more police presence now."

And for now, that close-knit neighborhood feel remains. "You can still go out without being dressed up, or without a lot of money in your wallet," said Popovksy. "Other neighborhoods are much more intimidating. Here you just come as you are, just to unwind. Everyone knows each other." KATE GHILONI



Realtor Rick Bosl, pictured in front of the Clarendon condo building where he lives, operates the Web site ArlingtonCondo.com, which lists properties in the county.

Clicking For Condos

Buyers surf the Web to explore the market and buy properties

First-time home-buyer Chris Hall, 23, barely had time to haul his belongings into his new two-bedroom condo this March, between work and the hours spent rooting for his alma mater George Mason in the NCAA basketball playoffs.

Actually, the condo-buying process took a lot less effort.

Hall conducted much of the hunt from his home comput-

er, using free Web sites that did the legwork for him. His main tool, BirdsEyeSearch.com paired Google's online mapping service with a real-time inventory of local resale properties entered by brokers' agents.

The inventory, which agents call a multiple listing service (MLS), ticked off price, location, year built, size and features. With this one site, Hall could pinpoint prospective condos that met his search criteria. Then, with a click, he could get a closer look at prop-

Continued on page E30



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ArlingtonCondo.com's Rick Bosl at Clarendon 1021, a property where he owns an apartment. His site lists this and other developments in the close-in county.

Continued from E29

interested him and map the condos' proximity to spots like his office or the grocery store.

Before discovering Birds EyeSearch, Hall was looking for a home on craigslist.org. He'd search for properties described as "located next to Metro's Orange line," which he considered a necessity. After finding a potential pad, he then had to verify the claims by cutting and pasting the address of each condo and Metro station into Google.com's mapping service.

Hall, a resource analyst at a software company, said that when he discovered the site, he realized it "was doing exactly what I was doing, except you could search a specific area, and it took a lot of the grunt work out."

During his apartment hunt, he came to depend on the site and a Realtor from Arlington's DROdio Realty, which operates BirdsEyeSearch. After a fourmonth search, Hall found and purchased a \$430,000 unit in Woodbury Heights, about a third of a mile from the Court House Metro station.

Like Hall, many people are tapping the Web to get the full scoop on properties, neighborhoods and real-estate trends. Call it surfing for shelter or clicking for condos — the Internet is changing the way people buy homes.

With the 'net, buyers are not entering into condo sales clueless, placing all their trust in the agent. Nor are they cooped up with a strange Realtor in a car for hours. Researching the market online can also prevent buyers from being duped by Realtors.

"Agents are very territorial and try to steer clients to where they get the most commissions," said Daniel R. Odio, the Arlington realtor (and former computer company exec) who started BirdsEyeSearch last December. "We don't need to be lording over our clients and telling them they can only go to certain locations."

So does this signal an end to Realtors? Odio thinks real estate sites will never replace the role of a live pro, because consumers rarely have the time or know-how to read up on and execute complex financial and legal real-estate transactions.

Sites like his save buyers time and make the time Realtors like him spend with clients more productive. "A Realtor shepherds the client through the negotiation and closing. We can keep buyers from doing something stupid," Odio said.

But buyers need to be aware that BirdsEyeSearch and other sites that pull their listings from broker databases do not contain every available property in the condosphere. One big drawback to these sites is that new condos — often advertised through in-house sales agents, not brokers — are missing. To find your dream pad, you may have to visit a sales office. There are also sites which serve up information on new developments, like OnlyNewCondos.com, another

Continued on page E33

Set Your Sites on A Condo

ArlingtonCondo.com

Lets buyers search inventory of local resale properties entered by brokers' agents. Registration not required. Inventory updated once a day. Site describes nearly every development in Arlington, even those not listed in the inventory. Descriptions come from Bosl's contacts at development companies, newspapers and neighborhood associations as wells as he own drives around the area. Doesn't list availability of units in most new condos.

BirdsEyeSearch.com

Pairs Google's online mapping service with an inventory of local resale properties entered by brokers' agents. Updated in real-time. Database doesn't list new condo projects. Site shows basic stats, like price, location, year built, size and features. Buyers can see satellite views and map images of available condos and nearby retail. To get specifics, visitors must type in name, e-mail address and phone number.

DCDreamLofts.com

Run by a software engineer with no real estate ties. Lets visitors search information on pre-construction condos gathered from word of mouth, user e-mails, signs outside of developments, builder Web sites and other media. Search by neighborhood, price range or completion date up to 2009. Site shows photos of progress of construction. Also links listings to Google's mapping service. Registration not required. Does not provide info about specific units for sale.

dclofts.com

Lets visitors view a comprehensive directory of new and preconstruction condos. Registration not required. Updated almost daily. Info collected from zoning boards, realtors, developers and site users. Corroborated by multiple sources and presented without spin. Condo ads appear separately. Does not provide info about specific units.

dcrealestate.com

Run by consultants to D.C. developers and real-estate writers. Details derived from relationships with developers, real-estate agents and independent research. Registration not required. Database updated daily. Offers critical analysis of each project, including projects not yet released by developers. Stays about six to 12 months ahead of official releases.

ListingNotice.com

Lets buyers register to receive e-mail alerts any time a condo becomes available that matches set preferences. Buyers enter name, phone number, e-mail address and criteria to sign up. System checks local resale inventory every hour.

HomesDatabase.com

Info supplied by Realtors. Lets buyers search inventory of resale properties entered by brokers' agents. Provides area demographics and crime data, school information, weather data, maps, comparable sales stats and median home values. Doesn't list most new condo projects. Registration not required. Consumers can enter email addresses to get daily updates about new listings that match their criteria. Updated once a day.

NewCondosOnline.com

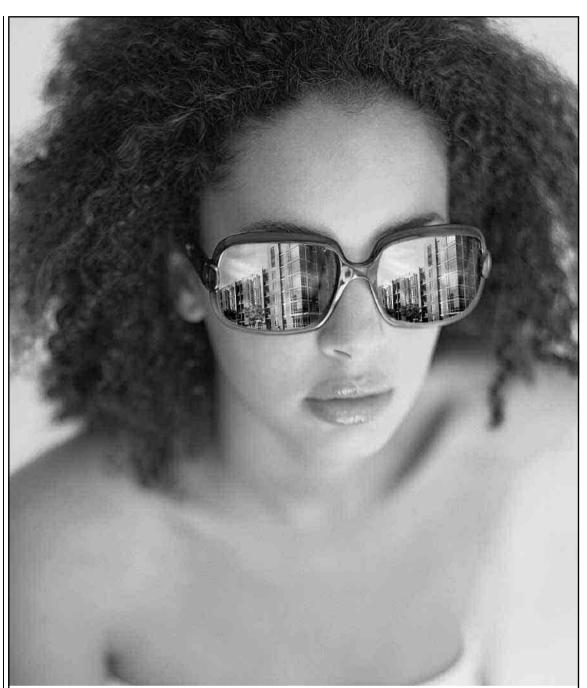
Lets visitors search national database of ads for new/preconstruction condos. Site only contains condos that pay for coverage. Registration optional, if visitors want to save listings. Developers usually update the site's staff weekly. To reach condo sales reps, visitors click through to the property's Web site, call the sales office or submit name, e-mail address and phone numbers.

OnlyNewCondos.com

Buyers in the market for upcoming condos can see basic info — price range, community, status and developer. Roster derived from early word of mouth. Does not provide information about specific units for sale.

Realtor.com

Lets buyers search nationwide inventory of resale properties entered by brokers' agents. Visitors can also search for local agent and brokerage Web sites. Registration not required. D.C. regional inventory not always current. A.S.



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Chris Hall used the Internet in his four-month home hunt. He found Birds Eye Search.com the most helpful, and the site helped him find his Arlington condo.

Continued from E30 Odio project.

Even consumers who did not grow up with the Internet are coming to rely on its resources.

Doug Meyers, a 47-yearold defense contractor, is using ArlingtonCondo.com to monitor the local market before he bids on any units. Meyers, who currently lives in a Washington rowhouse, plans to sell it and move to Arlington.

ArlingtonCondo is built and maintained by real-estate agent Rick Bosl of Keller Williams Realty, who previously worked on database design as an information technology consultant. Bosl, an Arlington resident for a decade, now lives in the new mid-rise condo Clarendon 1021. He has contacts within most of the community's condo projects.

Meyers said he appreciates ArlingtonCondo's ability to search within specific buildings and quickly suss out details like property amenities, year built, photos and, most importantly, current prices and past sales going back to 2000. The site describes nearly every condo development in Arlington, even proposed developments and properties under construction.

Having now tracked the site for a year, Meyers considers himself a knowledgeable consumer. In fact, Meyers is so plugged in, he wonders about the day when Realtors might become obsolete.

"The percentage and the rates that they charge haven't gone down, but it seems to me that people can pretty much find what they're looking for without a realtor," he said.

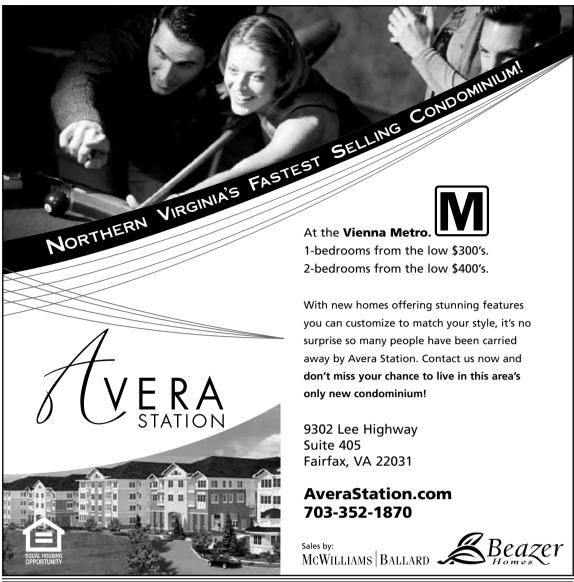
Meyers believes real-estate agents ought to be more flexible with the commissions they charge, now that they do less work.

But he admits he will need Bosl to wade through all the paperwork and to unlock the properties. Coincidentally, Meyers is looking to purchase a two bedroom in Clarendon 1021 for between \$600,000 and \$700,000.

Bosl agrees that the Web has changed the nature of his work — for the better. "Some Realtors tell me I give away too much info and that I should be withholding it until I get some information from the user. I say, 'Welcome to the Internet Age,'" he said. "There are still a lot of dinosaurs in real estate who think their power comes by controlling information."

Before the Web, Realtors reigned over particular communities, refusing to share information with other agents. Consumers had to work with numerous brokers to see everything that was available.

Continued on page E34





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- → Talk to a lender prior to starting your condo search.
- → Know what you can afford, what kind of loan you qualify for and what you are comfortable spending.
- → Take into account monthly condo fees, mortgage fees and taxes.
- → If you want to submit personal information to get more details on a condo, take measures to avoid privacy violations, phishing and spam.

 Past regional National Association of Realtors Vice President Dale Mattison says, "If there's one fault that I see in Internet usage, from a consum-

- er standpoint, it's the lack of personal service, responsibility and sometimes performance." A Web site that looks like condo listings could actually be run by a lender trying to grab contact information.
- → Most Realtors are not going to collect your personal data and sell it. To date, Mattison has never heard of any Internet fraud incidents on Realtor Web sites.
- → If you go to a Web site and you can't see who's operating it, do not enter any personal information. All sites should list name, contact information, address, phone number and credentials.
- → You may want to set up a temporary e-mail account devoted to correspondence with real estate Web sites.

Continued from E33

Eventually, the development of the multiple listing service fostered cooperation between brokers. Then, when the Web came along and provided public access to the multiple listing service, Realtors had to alter their business approach.

Like many agents, Bosl figured out that a Web site could be a powerful ally if viewed as a marketing tool. That's why "the name is 'ArlingtonCondo,' rather than 'RickSellsCondos.' It's easier to remember," he said.

Some in the real-estate industry say that masking the name of the Realtor who runs the site deceives the consumer. Bosl laughs off the argument, saying it is easy to figure out he is behind the site because his name and credentials are plastered on every Web page.

Real-estate professionals warn that some Webmasters do indeed hide their identities because they know consumers will be reluctant to deal with a Realtor or lender.

There are sites run by Realtors that require users to register before they can research properties.

Laurel Howell, the director of internet sales and marketing for multi-family housing developer KSI, said, "What they will do is give a brief overview. But, if you click for more information, you are asked to fill out an online form with your contact information before you can view all details."

She said, "You can find out who

is maintaining the portal by viewing the 'small print' either at the top or the bottom of the site."

Another negative: Web sites sometimes have outdated condo listings.

According to several Realtors, the National Realtor Association's Realtor.com, one of the most indepth, recommended sites for studying how to buy a home, doesn't always show updated listings.

Most of the time, the 'net is more helpful than harmful, past regional National Association of Realtors Vice President Dale Mattison said.

"Twenty years ago, an aroundthe-Beltway tour would take weeks. Now, from the comfort of a desktop, a person can visit an entire region in a half an hour to an hour," said Mattison, an associate broker at Long and Foster.

Nationally, 87 percent of Realtors belong to firms that have a Web site, while 45 percent of sales agents have a business Web site, according to NAR. The popularity of these doit-yourself sites has led some to contemplate whether online condo shopping is next.

Already, out-of-state residents can secure apartments in the Washington area with the click of a mouse. Online tools that display up-to-date unit availability and pricing have boosted the popularity of renting site unseen over the past three to four years.

Continued on page E36





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CONDOLiving



Chris Hall relaxes at his two-bedroom condominium in Arlington's Woodbury Heights development. He used the Internet to help him find his new home.

Continued from E34

Despite the ease of point-andclick purchasing, Realtors are not auctioning off condos on their sites yet.

"It's very easy to buy a pair of jeans or a pair of shoes online, but when you are talking about something that you are going to put your bed in and lay your head on the pillow, it's a much more personal [investment]. I don't think the Internet will ever take away the need to have real estate professionals," Mattison said.

Comfort is one part of the process that buyers cannot attain from a computer.

Realtor Jim McGowan, who has his own site and is listed on a broker directory called HomesDatabase.com, says, individual investors may be willing to do real-estate transactions online, but most Washingtonians aren't going to buy a condo or a house without seeing it first.

Argene Carswell, 49, a client of McGowan's, said Realtor personality was just as important as Web site performance when she was looking for help in buying her first home in January of 2005.

The organizational development consultant was intent on finding the perfect neighborhood. While looking online for Virginia realtors, Carswell came across McGowan's site. She began sharing her idea of the perfect home with him: a spacious, twobedroom condominium, with an underground garage, front-desk security and a great view.

By making a phone call, the Web-shy shopper didn't have to worry about sending personal data into cyberspace. After that, most of Carswell's interaction with McGowan took place over the telephone and on the road.

But she did use the Web for one part of the process. Both McGowan's sites download the latest property data from the multiple listing service every 24 hours. Each morning, Carswell checked his personal site to see what was available within her set parameters.

Two months later, she grabbed a \$325,000 two-bedroom at Skyline House in Falls Church, with a view overlooking trees, the Northern Virginia skyline and Reagan National Airport. Carswell moved in that April.

The Web gave her confidence going into the buying process, but she couldn't have gotten through it without McGowan.

"The Internet can be a powerful tool. For me, it worked hand in hand with the Realtor ... It's the synergy. I couldn't imagine how difficult it was before the Web was available," Carswell said. ALIYA STERNSTEIN

CONDOLiving



Architect Chris Pfaeffe's rendering of the Silo Point development in downtown Baltimore shows a gritty old grain elevator surrounded by new condominiums.

A Home Sweet Silo

Baltimore industrial building set to morph into condo project

Imagine a grain elevator, once the biggest and fastest in the world, jutting 290 feet in the air. Sitting on a peninsula surrounded by working ships, yachts and sailboats. Right next door to a major historical site and across the harbor from a downtown marketplace.

Now imagine that elevator sheathed in glass and metal and converted into about 230 condominiums. Inside, a new lobby, with a restaurant, coffee shops and a front desk, rises 130 feet. It's the same height the main floor was when the elevator operated for some 70 years, carrying processed soybeans, corn and wheat from rail cars to surrounding storage silos and from the silos to oceangoing vessels.

Hard to picture?

Not for Baltimore developer Patrick Turner, who envisions a residential reincarnation of the boxy elevator building and silos.

Turner says he believes the one-ofa-kind venture will be hard to resist. "The views are incredible, it's right off I-95, and you're just a few minutes from downtown Baltimore."

He adds: "You can live in a historic condo anywhere in the world, but there is no other grain elevator in the world where you can live." (There is a converted Quaker Oats plant in Akron, Ohio, where you can sleep in a silo, dine in a mill and shop in a factory, but no reports of residential uses.)

The Baltimore complex, Silo Point, sits in Locust Point, a oncegritty blue-collar neighborhood next to historic Fort McHenry. It faces Baltimore's downtown, trendy Federal Hill and the Inner Harbor tourist complex on one side, the fort on another, and a new city marine terminal and Interstate 95 to the south.

On a clear day, Turner says, "you can see the planes landing at BWI and the Loch Raven Reservoir" to the north about 20 miles.

Turner's company has started building and selling 121 townhouses nearby in partnership with Pulte Homes Inc., and is ginning up now to market Silo Point. In a recent interview, he gushed about the condo units in the elevator building itself — he

Continued on page E39

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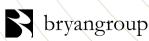
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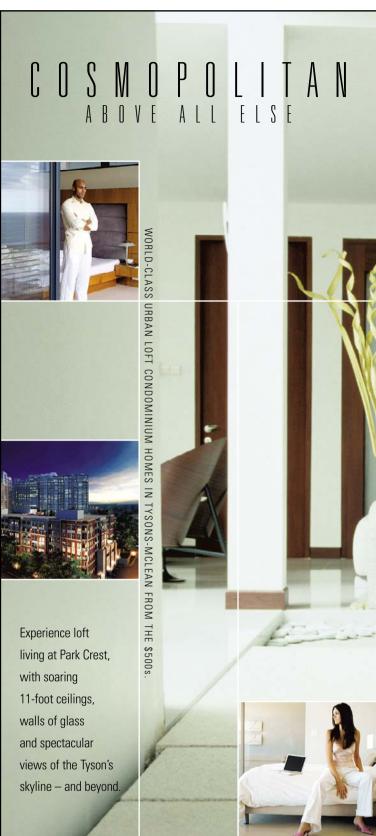




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Continued from E37

calls them "lofts in the sky" — and about top floors with panoramic views. The project will also have condos wrapped around the elevator tower and townhouses sitting atop the garage.

Silo Point is still a bit hard for visitors to comprehend initially, Turner says. But he's taken "hundreds of them" through the abandoned "lobby" and then up 130 feet in an old claustrophobic workers' elevator to the level where the tower condos will start. After visitors climb another four levels of opentread stairs to get to the roof, he says, "pretty much everyone has the same comment, which is 'wow.'"

The condo units will have ceilings as high as 18 feet, some with floor-to-ceiling windows. Units near the top of the skyscraper will have windows on either side, with views for miles.

Turner is planning to market heavily to the Washington crowd for big reasons, he says: The I-95 ramp is only a couple of turns away; the prices will run from \$399,000 up, which he says is reasonable for the "unique" views."

Turner says Baltimore is in its "second or third generation" of revival, and he thinks it's primed for more

It is a jolt, though, to see the thin, boxy concrete structure now, standing in a mud field, with its crown of corrugated metal and steel girders and its banks of broken windows.

But the developer has a history of seeing the potential of places such as Federal Hill, where he got in early, and of converting former industrial sites to residential or mixed use. Turner is also involved in redeveloping a massive industrial area nearby called Westport, which would extend the transformation of Baltimore's waterfront from industrial to upscale mixed use. Like Fells Point and Canton, Locust Point has been the focus of concentrated public-private ventures. The result has been potent — home prices of \$600,000 are now considered normal.

Chris Pfaeffle, with Parameter Inc. architects in Baltimore who specializes in "adaptive reuse" of industrial buildings, has spent $2\frac{1}{2}$ years on the Silo Point design.

You can find Silo Point tucked behind a neighborhood of classic Formstone and brick rowhouses, renovated industrial buildings, still-operating factories, and a mix of old bars and new cafes.

The first glimpse of the elevator itself comes as one you turn a corner into a mostly residential neighborhood. Two groupings of concrete storage silos sit a short distance from the elevator, the only silos left from what had once been an assemblage of about 180.

Each grouping has eight. They're blackened — not from soot or decay, but intentionally for protection against the elements, according to Turner. The two sets of silos were kept to anchor the 550-car garage as another reminder of the past. Pfaeffle plans to reinforce the "industrial aesthetic" with other touches, including landscaping with grasses or wheat. He also plans to build a mound of dirt on one side to show "the amount of grain that could be stored in one silo."

"You can live in a condo anywhere, but there is no other grain elevator where you can live."

Turner bought the 15-acre site from Archer Daniels Midland in 2003 for \$6.5 million, according to published reports, and says he expects to spend about \$400 million on the transformation. The facility was built in the early 1920s as a transfer station for the B&O Railroad, then passed to two agricultural processing companies. It was shut down in March 2003 by ADM.

Turner says he pestered ADM to sell the elevator while it was still operating because he "could see the industry was changing" and that factories and transportation facilities were being moved from urban areas like Baltimore's. ADM finally agreed after deciding to close it, he says.

The site has been graded down to red mud and a couple of large concrete pads. Turner plans to build on those pads later. About 130,000 square feet of office space and 25,000 square feet of retail space are permitted by current zoning. Sandra Fleishman (Washington Post)



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